THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER.

WE HAVE BEFORE US the last annual report on the dispensaries in the North Western Provinces. Including all classes there are 150 institutions, or, speaking broadly there is a medical institution of one kind or another for every 205,000 people in the Provinces; while in the Punjab there is one for every 160,000 persons. There are, however, no less than 870,000 people for every 1st class sudder, with one or more trained Assistant Surgeons.

THE FOLLOWING is an abstract of the financial position of the dispensaries in N.W.P. The receipts were Rs. 3,59,683, being an increase of Rs. 40,337 over last year; while the disbursements were Rs. 2,43,317, being an increase of Rs. 28,977 over last year. The cost per patient was Re. 0-5-0½ against Re. 0-4-5¾ last year. Of the total receipts, Rs. 1,29,050 came from local sources, and Rs. 1,43,439 was the Government contribution. The Government grant has increased by Rs. 15,753. All the Government charges have increased; the pay of Assistant Surgeon and Hospital Assistants rising with their promotion into higher grades.

THERE WERE last year three Homœopathic Dispensaries in the North Western Provinces, viz., at Allahabad, Agra and Benares. The first has been closed; the following is a return of cases relieved at the Agra and Benares Dispensaries:

	New cases	Old cases	Average
Benares	55,62	12,629	49
Agra	1,519	5,298	18

We are sorry to observe that these returns will be discontinued because the Government does not consider them reliable.

THE FOLLOWING notification has been issued by the Bombay Government authorizing public holidays in commemoration of the Prince of Wales' visit:

Resolution.—His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to declare that Monday the 8th, Tuesday the 9th, and Wednesday the 10th November next, shall be observed as public holidays throughout the Presidency on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Bombay.

2. Heads of Offices must make provision for the disposal of pressing work, as is done during the Christmas holidays.

3. In Bombay, the whole week of His Royal Highness' visit,—viz., Monday 8th to Saturday 13th November inclusive, is to be observed as a public holiday, all Courts and Government Offices being closed.

4. Provision for urgent work should be made by heads of offices as usual.

5. Should His Royal Highness be in Poona on Monday, 15th November, that day should be observed as a holiday in Poona, in addition to the general holidays on the 8th to the 10th.

6. Copy of this Resolution should be communicated to the Chamber of Commerce, in reply to their Secretary's letter, dated 2nd instant.

W. G. PEDDER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Three days for the Mofussil are not sufficient. Public servants in the Mofussil ought to have been allowed sufficient time for the necessary trip to and from the capital. We hope the same mistake will not be repeated in Bengal.

WE OBSERVE that a correspondent, signing himself "Cyclops" has written to *the Times of India* describing the sort of treatment that poor native travellers too often receive from railway officials. It appears that a few days ago, "Cyclops" was waiting at the Umritsur railway station. About five minutes before the train started "a fat native appeared on the platform with the usual large loose bundle on his back," and the fat native began vainly imploring the officials to give him a seat in the third class carriage, and commenced running up and down the whole length of the train trying to find a vacant place. As there seemed every chance of this unfortunate man being left behind, "Cyclops" good-naturedly asked a ticket collector to open the door of a third-class carriage for him. On this, the following highly interesting performance was gone through, and we cannot do better than give it in "Cyclops" own words:—"The result of my interference was that a native policeman who happened to be in a carriage close by gave the passenger a sharp blow on the head and bade him 'look smart' in not very choice language." The ticket collector, however, was not to be outdone in politeness by a native policeman, so he opened the door of a carriage, and then, according to "Cyclops" "caught the man roughly by the back of the neck, and pushed him headlong into the carriage, venting his feelings by a few well-chosen but highly improper Hindoostanee phrases." Too many of us have witnessed scenes like this, and worse than this, and have seen natives hustled and shoved into the third-class carriages more like animals than human beings. AS "Cyclops" says, these incidents are an "ample answer to the question why natives do not travel by rail to such an extent as might be expected from the population of the country."

THE CENSUS REPORT of the Madras Presidency shews that the bulk of the native officials employed in the Uncovenanted Civil Service of that Presidency are Brahmins: Out of 63 Deputy Collectors in this Presidency, 25 are Brahmins: 15 belong to other castes, 21 are Europeans or East Indians, and 2 Mahomedans, Among the 21 Huzzur Sheristadars belonging to the collectorates, 12 are Brahmins, 7 other castes. 2 Europeans or East Indians. Of 156 Tahsildars, 93 are Brahmins, 50 belong to other castes, 8 are Europeans and East Indians, and 5 Mahomedans. Among 154 Taluq Sheristadars there are 126 Brahmins; of 174 Sub-magistrates there are 111 Brahmins, 51 other caste; of 20 Head clerks in Collectors' Offices, 9 are Brahmins; of 21 Head Accountants there are 11 Brahmins; so that in all these grades we have a total of 609 subordinates of whom 387 are Brahmins, 162 of other castes, 46 Europeans and East Indians, and 14 Mahomedans. We should like to know the proportion of Brahmin boys in the Madras schools and colleges.

THE MARQUIS BEUSE DE CAVOUR, nephew of the great Italian Minister, and the possessor of his papers, is dead, and the name and family of Cavour has thus become extinct.

THE TOPAH-I-KASHMIR mentions that preparations on a grand scale are being made for the reception of the Prince of Wales at Jummoo. A special house is being constructed for H's Royal Highness' accommodation. A large quantity of valuable shawls of rare texture and design, and valued at about Rs. 10,000 each, have been ordered. In addition to these presents, it is stated that a valuable sword set with precious stones and valued at Rs. 40,000, and a handsome gold chair and some tables inlaid with the same metal, are being constructed. It appears that some three lacs of rupees have been set apart for these presents. Amongst the other preparations which are being made, we are informed that the Maharajah has ordered the metalling of the road between Sealkote and Jummoo. The Maharajah's troops are also all to be equipped with new uniform and accoutrements. A lac of rupees have been set apart for fireworks, and illuminations. It will be seen that no expense will be spared in giving the heir-apparent a right royal welcome.

TUESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER.

THE LONDON PAPERS have glowing accounts of the superb manner in which the *Serapis* is fitted up for the accommodation of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. We are told that the Prince is to have two suites of apartments—one on each side of the ship—so that he may always be able to occupy quarters on the shady side of the vessel; his bed-room, his sitting-room, and his bath-room are all described with tiresome minuteness; the furniture of the saloon has been supplied, we are informed, "by that fashionable firm of upholsterers," Messrs. Jackson and Graham; a grand piano by Broadwood, costing £170, has been placed at one end of the saloon, whilst on deck "a magnificent smoking-room" has been fitted up, &c., &c., &c.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Daily News* gives the following credentials to two M. Ps. who are about to make a tour in India during the Prince of Wales' visit to this country:

"They are, Mr. Ashbury, M. P. for Brighton, and Mr. Gourley, M. P. for Sunderland. Mr. Ashbury's father began life as a manufacturer of wheelbarrows, and Mr. Gourley's male progenitor was originally a cabin boy on board of a Sunderland collier. Both Mr. Ashbury, Senior, and Mr. Gourley, Senior, were persevering men, and in time each of them amassed wealth. Mr. Ashbury founded at Manchester the large works for making railway carriages, which now belong to the Ashbury Manufacturing Co. (Limited), and Mr. Gourley rose through successive stages to be master and then owner of a sailing vessel. To this vessel he was presently enabled to add others, so that when he died, he was in a position to leave to his son, the present M. P. for Sunderland, quite a small fleet of ships. Both Mr. Ashbury, M. P and Mr Gourley M. P. are yachtsmen, which bond of union may account for their visiting India in company; but I suspect that a yet "nearer and dearer" bond of sympathy between them is the ardent desire, which both feel to get into "society." In England they feel that they are 'nobodies—in India (they fondly hope) they may possibly be regarded as somebodies!

Mr. Ashbury has spent large sums in sailing matches against the Americans, &c, &c, and I remember some five years ago, he gave a grand banquet at the *Star and Garter*, Richmond, to which he invited various titled and other guests. The viands provided at this banquet were of the most costly kind; the wines were of the most priceless vintages, but somehow the guests—like those in the scripture parable—"made excuse" with one accord. Mr. Ashbury had had a flaming account of the entertainment prepared for the London newspapers, but to add to his vexation at the non-arrival of his guests, all but one newspaper refused to insert it! In the House of Commons Mr. Ashbury has made no mark, and in short he has no claim to anybody's notice save that he happens (at present) to be M. P. for Brighton, and that he is the fortunate possessor of a well-filled purse. Of Mr Gourley, M. P. I need happily say but little. If however, report is to be believed, he is one of those ship-owning M.Ps., against whom Mr. Plimsoll has launched his strongest unparliamentary epithets. Mr Gourley has, by the way, by no means so well filled a purse as has Mr Ashbury; he is regularly "cut" in the House of Commons; and he has been black-balled at the Reform Club! Looking, then, at the antecedents of the two travellers M. Ps. who are about to visit India in the wake—a very long way, indeed, in the wake—of the Prince of Wales, I scarcely think them to be such as to encourage the hope that India or Indian interests will be in any way benefitted by their visit!"

IN ONE OF HIS LIVELY orations made before a large assemblage of Tetotallers recently, Sir Wilfred Lawson narrated the following story as told by an Irish gentleman:—He was a teetotaller. He had an uncle who was very fond of drinking whisky punch. The Irish gentleman wished to convert his uncle, and wrote to him. "Dear uncle, Do give up drinking, I am sure it will lengthen your days." In about a week he got an answer to his letter, and the old gentleman said "Dear Nephew, I am much obliged to you for your advice. I have taken it. You were quite right when you told me, it would lengthen my days; for the day that I gave up drinking was the longest day; for the day that I gave up drinking was the longest day I ever spent in my life."

EVEN THE QUEEN is not above criticism. Anent the late accident connected with the Royal Yacht Her Majesty caused a letter to be written to Lord Exeter, the Commodore of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, stating that, as it appeared from the evidence in the case, from motives of loyalty or curiosity yachtmen were in the habit of approaching too near the Royal yacht, Her Majesty desired that the Commodore would make it known to the members of the Club that the Queen looked for their aid to prevent a practice fraught with so much danger. The publication of this letter coming immediately after the verdict, which although it declared the calamity to be an accident, attached a rider to the effect that a better look out might be kept on board the Royal yacht, and that the speed of the vessel, especially during the summer months, when the Solent is crowded with pleasure yachts and boats, might be somewhat slackened, was interpreted by the public to mean—"Tell the yachtsmen that they had better keep out of my way or I will run them down." The Press took up the matter in right earnest, and the result was that an explanation was furnished to all the papers to the effect that the Queen's meaning had been misinterpreted; that the letter in question "had been written three weeks previously before there was any reason to expect a second inquest; that it was intended solely to convey the simple request it contained; that any expression of opinion upon the cause of the accident was studiously avoided; and that no blame was attributed to the owner of the Mistletoe or to any other person." We are glad to note that these few lines at once allayed public feeling.

ONE of the speakers at Bristol the other day gave an interesting account of the late archæological discoveries in Kent's Cavern, near Torquay. He said a friend had asked him if these discoveries proved man to be more than 6,000 years old, and his reply was, "Yes; and if you were to add six other noughts to those figures, they would still not be noughty enough." The immense antiquity of man, said the speaker, may be considered as proved, though the number of noughts may never be established. So it is not wise to scoff at the Hindu Sastras.

THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN have been appointed Reporters under the Indian Law Reports Act: Mr. Goodeeve to be Chief Reporter—Mr. Woodman to officiate during his absence—High Court, Fort William; Messrs. C. P. Hill G. Gregory and C. H.

Reily, and Munshi Ameer Ali, to be Reporters for that Court; Mr. J. Mills—Mr. J. Branson to officiate in his absence—High Court, Madras; Mr. W. Hart, High Court, Bombay; Mr. G. Spankie, High Court, North-West; Mr. N. H. Thomson to report for the Judicial Committee and Privy Council.

DR. FAYRER'S latest work is "The Royal Tiger" of Bengal.

DURING the progress of the enquiry conducted by Captain Hunter as to the origin of the dispute about the sacred temples on the Setrunja Hills, between the Thakore of Palitana and the Shrawuk community of Western India we learn that Captain Hunter, out of regard to the feelings of the Hindoo community, on visiting the temples changed his shoes for those reserved for such purposes and which are only used within the sacred precincts of the temples. His Excellency the Governor acted in the same manner himself, we are told, when he visited these hills last year: and this act is considered one of great moment by Hindoos, for they believe that the sanctity of the temple is defiled by shoes worn by Christians or Mahomedans. But the Thakore of Palitana permitted his people to walk within the sacred buildings with their shoes on, a proceeding which has considerably exasperated the feelings of the Shrawuks. This dispute has attracted the notice of the entire Jain community of India, who are an inoffensive body and usually unassuming in their demeanour. It is stated that Captain Hunter though pressed by the Thakore to walk with his shoes on, as that Chief has done himself, declined to do so, as he thought the religious feelings of the Shrawuks ought to be respected. It is such good and gracious feeling, that goes a great way in reconciling the European to the Indian.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER.

"THE PAPERS seem to be busy about Miss Carpenter. The following programme of her Indian tour is telegraphed from Bombay: Miss Carpenter leaves to-day for Karachi. She intends establishing female educational institutions there and at Hyderabad. Sir William Merewether has promised his support. She returns to Bombay next month, visits Ahmedabad and Poona, and takes up the Factory Act for Bombay and the condition of the ryots. Afterwards she visits Madras and the chief towns of Southern India for educational purposes: thence to Calcutta in December. She makes a tour to North-Western Provinces, schoolvisiting; also Nagpur, and returns to Bombay in March. She establishes a branch of the National Indian Association, and makes an inauguration speech.

WE ARE SORRY to learn that Sir William Muir is opposed to Sir Richard Temple's scheme of State Life Assurance. He seems to be of opinion that the existing data as to the inner life of the natives of this country—if indeed data worth naming exist at all—are too meagre to found safe calculations upon. Nice calculations in a matter like this wont do, because the data before Government are not sufficient. But we support the scheme on general grounds, and if it were adopted as a tentative measure the Government would see its way clearly hereafter.

WE TAKE from Mr. Danvers' last report the following Railway statistics:

"The revenue derived from the railways during the year 1874 was in excess of the previous year by 770,856*l*. The gross receipts amounted to 7,760,760*l*., being 1,021,845*l*. in excess of the previous year. The expenses were 3,804,689*l*. as compared with 3,553,703*l*. The next revenue was accordingly 3,956,071*l*. The amount paid for guaranteed interest during the year 1874-75 was 4,694,355*l*., towards which the guaranteed lines contributed 3,562,000*l*., leaving 1,132,355*l*., as a charge upon the revenues of the year. A sum of 752,705*l*., was realised, in excess of the guaranteed interest advanced upon them, by the East Indian, the Eastern Bengal, and the Bombay and Baroda Railways. Half this amount was, under the terms of the contract, paid back to the companies for distribution among the shareholders. The East Indian received 365,510*l*. 10s., the Eastern Bengal, 8,480*l*. 10s., and the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 2,361*l*. 10s. from this source. The improvement which was made in the revenue is due principally to the large traffic in grain for the famine-stricken districts of Bengal. The Great India Peninsula and the Bombay and Baroda, which did not participate in this traffic, also show an advance; but the trade of the country still continues depressed, and the business of the railways is, of course, injuriously affected thereby. Both exports and imports dismissed in the year 1873-4. The cotton trade, especially during the last few years, has fallen off considerably, and this tells very much against the Bombay lines. The cotton exports to England amounted, in 1863-4, to 4,522,526 cwt., of the value of 38,215,145*l*.; 1868-9 to 4,284,334 cwt., of the value of 18,342,887*l*.; 1873-4 to 3,280,877 cwt.; of the value of 9,625,626*l*. The value of all imports and exports in the same years from Bombay was 68,976,133*l*.; 47,898,621*l*.; and 32,532,580*l*., respectively. Taking the whole of India, the value of imports and exports was in 1863-4, 117,004,055*l*.; 1868-9, 105,603,839*l*.; and in 1873-4, 95,260,991*l*.

"Tables are given containing full details of the passenger and goods traffic and of the receipts and expenses of each railway during the year. The following is a summary:—The total number of passengers of all classes carried in 1874 was 24,280,459, compared with 23,557,605 of the year 1873. Of the former number, 23,556,218, or 97·01 per cent. consisted of the lowest classes; 543,800, or 2·21 per cent., of the second; and 180,440, or ·78 per cent. of the first class. The receipts from Passengers (including 105,843*l*. for troops, and 199,958*l*. for excess luggage, carriages, horses, &c., and excluding 7,148*l*., for mail service) were 2,183,015*l*, of which 106,198*l*, or 4·81 per cent. was received from the first; 102,990*l*; or 4·70 per cent from the second; and 1,650,110*l*, or 75·58 per cent, from the lowest classes. The total receipts from passengers, compared with last year, were 4,440*l* less. On some of the lines the decrease was considerable, and on the others there was not much difference. On the Great Indian Peninsula, for instance, the numbers fell off by 193,000, and the receipts diminished 59,700*l*. On the East Indian, the Scinde, Punjab, and Delhi, and on the Madras, the passenger traffic was nearly stagnant. The number only increased in the cases of those lines where the rates has been reduced.

"The general merchandise carried amounted to 4,663, or six tons, exclusive of 33,608 conveyed by the Indus Flotilla, compared with 3,266,062 of the previous year. The minerals were 687,450 tons, compared with 671,004 of 1873. Thirty-nine per cent of the whole quantity—viz, 2,137,981 was conveyed on the main line of the East Indian Railway. While there was a falling off in the general traffic of the country, there was an increase on the East Indian of 711,068 and on the Punjab and Delhi of 130,564 tons, due of course to the large demands for grain in the districts where scarcity prevailed. The receipts from goods increased by 981,603*l*—from 4,292,005*l* in 1873 to 5,273,608*l* in 1874. The East Indian Railway alone earned 656,761*l*, more than in the previous year, and the Punjab and Delhi 291,407*l*. The Great Indian Peninsula shows an increase of 166,578*l*., but the Madras, on the other hand, a decrease of 86,378*l*.

"The number of miles travelled by trains during the year was 18,475,322, compared with 15,650,597 of the previous year; and the ton mileage (signifying the number of tons moved one mile) was 1,102,956,185, against 802,704,923.'

AT THE RECENT meeting of the French Association for the advancement of Science at Nantes M. Mascart shewed some curious experiments on the condensation resulting from the expansion of moist air, which may be of some interest as including the method of the formation of clouds—a perfectly clean glass flask into the bottom of which a little water is introduced, is closed by a cork perforated for the passage of a glass tube which terminates exteriorly in an India-rubber syphon bag. In this enclosed spare space the air quickly becomes saturated with aqueous vapour. By pressing on the India-rubber bag the temperature rises, and there can be no condensation. If the bag be allowed to expand to its original form, the air is cooled, and, contrary to what is usually seen, no condensation takes place. To produce the condensation ordinarily seen, it is only requisite to introduce into the flask some unfiltered air; filtered air produces no such effect.

IT IS STRANGE that England, which is so much indebted to Science for her greatness, so sadly neglects education in science. According to the report of the Science Commission returns, more or less complete, were received from 128 endowed schools in all, and out of this total, "science is taught in only 63, and of these only 13 have a laboratory, and only 18 apparatus, often very scanty." Even these figures, however, give but a very imperfect notion of the neglect with which Science is treated. It will hardly be believed that there are no more than 18 of these schools which devote as much as four hours in the week to scientific instruction, that 16 actually afford no longer time than two hours a week and seven think an hour sufficient. These, however, are the good examples. There are 30 schools in which no definite time whatever is allotted to scientific study. Again, out of the 128 schools, only 13 give any place at all to science in their examinations, and "only two attach a weight to science in the examinations equal to that of classics or mathematics." All this is attributed to the pernicious influence of the old Universities.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, who lately presided at a public exhibition of the local Girls' School, thus depicted the future of Darjeeling:

"To use a common phrase, I may say Darjeeling is "looking up" With the Railway so soon to be opened to the foot of the hills, and a growing population of tea planters, and this being the only Sanatarium for the whole Province, we may soon expect to see Darjeeling an important place, dotted with villas and mansions, and even now, as you go through the District and see those pretty houses studding the hills, you see the germ of a considerable community.

THURSDAY, 21ST OCTOBER.

WE ARE requested to publish the following Resolution passed at a Special Meeting of the Bethune School Committee held on the 5th instant:

"That melancholy event of the death of the late Babu Peary Churn Sircar, member of this Committee be recorded in the minutes with an expression of the Committee's deep sorrow at the serious loss which it has caused to this Institution. Babu Peary Churn Sircar was not the least distinguished of the eminent band of men, who owed their early training to the late Hindu College. Throughout life, his labors were earnest and unceasing in the work of education. With his pen and by his teaching alike he was ever active in endeavours to secure a sound and pure basis of instruction for his countrymen and he especially directed his attention to furthering the intellectual culture of the female sex. The Bethune School will long feel the absence of his careful judgment and guidance."

Yours truly,
M. GHOSE.
Secy. Bethune School Committee.

A CURIOUS case, on which Government orders have been but lately passed, has come to our notice. Babu Nilcomul Chatterjea and his younger brother held two appointments at Burrisaul one as Head Clerk of the local Court of Small Causes and the other Local Funds clerk in the Magistrate's Office on a salary of Rs. 10. Babu Nilcomul had been transferred to Chittagong as Sub-Registrar of deeds and that only towards the latter end of last year. Within two or three months of the elder brother's transfer heavy defalcations to the extent of between four and five thousand rupees on the part of the younger brother were discovered. As soon as the misdeed came to light the miscreant decamped. The Magistrate reported the case to Government but at the same time suggested that the elder brother, the Sub-Registrar, might be suspended and held responsible for the loss inasmuch as both the brothers, he urged, when at Burrisaul and lived together, and the elder must therefore be privy to the younger brother's proceedings. The Lieutenant Governor took serious notice of the defalcation but ordered the Commissioner of the Dacca Division to hold a local enquiry. The Commissioner's enquiry exculpated the Sub-Registrar as to his complicity in the defalcation, but went to show that both the brothers were deeply addicted to drinking. It is said that the younger brother's consumption of liquor exceeded Rs. 100 a month. The Sub-Registrar of Chittagong has been ordered to revert to his former appointment of Small Cause Court Head Clerk and instructions have been given to the Accountant General to recover the loss from the responsible officers concerned.

WE ARE informed that Mr. H. W. Stainforth, Editor of the *Statesman*, and late Editor of the *Indian Observer*, has been appointed Special Correspondent on the Staff of the *Royal Tourist*.

IT IS STATED that arrangements are being made to open a Budhist College at Galle, and that oriental classics will be taught to the students.

DURING the month of August some 17,000 odd snakes were killed in the Lahore, and over 800 in the Sialkot districts. The floods had driven these pests to seek refuge in the trees, shrubs, and high lands, and villagers, unable to plough or do anything else, devoted their energies to a wholesale slaughter, having in view the prospect of two annas reward per venomous snake, which, it is hoped, they may duly receive.

WE LEARN from the *Rangoon Gazette* the Burmah Company are cultivating Tobacco to a great extent. Indigo, gram, and other kinds of grain are also being experimented at a place called Zinganing, Pegu district. Jute cultivation, it is said, has proved to be an entire failure on account of the land being very low, and impregnated with salt. Tobacco appears to give fair hope of success.

THE MOST FAVOURITE AMUSEMENT for Parisians at this moment, says a Paris correspondent, is fishing with rod and line: the banks of the river continue to be crowded with persons of both sexes. Pepin-le-Bref liked the amusement, and Louis V. waded in the river to catch cray-fish with his hands. Louis XVIII. was a noted angler, and, it is said, that monarch composed all his witty sayings, and re-hearsed his Horace, while so occupied.

DEATH-RATE is again increasing in Calcutta. The total number of deaths for the week ending on the 25th September was 260, and the same for the week ending on the 2nd October was 286. Last week there were 126 deaths from fever.

MR. MOUNG HLA OUNG, a young Burmese gentleman, Interpretor to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, has been appointed to the Financial Department sixth grade. He was educated in the Bishop's College, Calcutta. The *Friend of Burma* says that "some day he will probably rise to be Accountant General of British Burma."

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to learn the death of Maharaja Ramkissen Sing of Tikari. He was a representative of one of the most ancient houses in Behar.

FRIDAY, 22ND OCTOBER.

THE BEHAR HERALD says: "Despite the slight shower on Friday evening last, want of rain is felt throughout Behar, particularly in the Gya and Arrah Districts, where orders have been already sent for the distribution of water from the Sone Canals. The water rate has been fixed at 2½ Rs. per acre."

A COMMISSION is about to be appointed by the Viceroy to enquire into the alleged grievances of the Junior Civilians in the N. W. P., the members being: Sir William Muir, Hon'ble Ashley Eden and Sir A. Arbuthnot, Mr. Westland, Accountant General, Central Provinces, will be the Secretary to the Committee.

HERO-WORSHIP seems to be the order of the day in Europe. A Paris Correspondent says:

"The glorification of painters and other eminent men is going forward merrily. The Florentine festival in honour of Michel-Angelo has been superb and enthusiastic. The Buonarotti Gallery, thrown open to the public, was thronged by eager crowds inspecting the nine volumes of documents re-

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lating to the Great Artist, watched over by a strong guard. Before the tomb in the Church of Santa Croce was hung a crown of oak-leaves in silver with golden acorns, the gift of the Goethe Academy, with the deed of gift on parchment, in a silver casket. At the National and Laurentian Libraries, where are superb collections of a similar character sketches by Michel Angelo, &c., the crowding was equally great. Not only were distinguished visitors present from every part of Europe and the United States, but addresses by the hundred were received from all the self-styled "civilized" countries. The banquets, official and private, were innumerable. Seen from the surrounding heights, the illumination of the beautiful city was something marvellous, the hills, also, being ablaze with fire, every little town and hamlet being lit up, splendid weather allowing all this illumination to burn its brightest, almost without a flicker. Throughout the three days' festival bands were playing, banners and steamers were floating in every direction; the picturesque houses were hung with rich draperies, flowers, and evergreens, from every balcony; orations, processions, theatrical entertainments, and the performance of Verdi's Requiem Mass, provided abundant amusement and occupations for all comers."

Man naturally yearns after festivities in one form or another, and wanting the excitement of Hindu idolatry the civilized nations of Europe have had recourse to a new idolatry in the worship of their great men.

THERE are in France, 324 colleges with 69,500, pupils; 657 private schools, with 43,000 pupils; and 278 ecclesiastical schools, with 34,000 pupils, besides at least one training-school for priests in each diocese under the rule of its Bishop. In addition to these institutions the Catholic hierarchy propose to establish four Universities.

SATURDAY, 23RD OCTOBER.

THE famous banker, Gopal Rao Myral, of Baroda, has offered to feed and clothe all the distressed at Ahmedabad for one month at his own expense. What is given to the poor is stored in heaven.

ACCORDING to the *Journal of Applied Science*, an experiment has been made at Countess Weir Mills, Exeter, in manufacturing paper from the Australian papyrus, or sand rush, and although the quantity made was very small, the trial was regarded as very successful. About 50 reams of demy, weighing about 8 cwts., were made from 19½ cwts., of the raw fibre.

THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT of the *Civil and Military Gazette* notes a new invention, a writing machine called the type writer. It works very rapidly, and no type setting is required, as each letter comes into its place on the ivory key or knob being touched. The correspondent says: "I saw the machine in operation, and numerous letters from clergymen and authors written on type writers of their own—saying that they had found by experience that it was infinitely easier both to write and think at the same time, in using this machine, than with the ordinary method of holding the pen." It only takes a few days to acquire the use of the machine, and one can practise upon a slip of paper about a foot long and 3 inches broad, which is an exact copy of the finger board of the machine.

THE PRUSSIANS propose to apply the electric light to purposes of war. Early in July a new "pyro-electric apparatus" was successfully tried at the Siemens-Halska works at Berlin, in the presence of a large number of naval and military officers. This light, which is worked by a portable electric machine, permits ordinary writing to be read at a mile distance. An inclined mirror is placed in front of the light, so as to reflect the rays to any desired part of the horizon.

MR. GRANT DUFF notes in his diary that whilst at Tanjore he observed "particularly the Indian fox, a lovely little animal so fleet that foxhounds have no chance with it."

WE LEARN from the *Indian Mirror* that Dr. G. C. Roy, Officiating Civil Surgeon of Serampore, who had proceeded to England for the purpose of qualifying himself for the covenanted medical service, has embraced Christianity. He was a Progressive Brahmo.

THE INDIAN LEAGUE convened this after-noon a meeting of the rate payers of Calcutta to protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill. Mr. James Wilson, editor of the *Indian Daily News*, was in the chair. Resolutions were passed and a memorial adopted advocating the introduction of the elective system for municipal government.

WE ARE REQUESTED to announce that Father Lafont will deliver his usual fortnightly lecture on Thursday next—subject "On Colors."

DR. KING, Superintendent of the Royal Botanical Gardens, has favored us with a copy of the rules which have been laid down for observance by visitors to the Gardens. To one of these we would direct the special attention of the public, namely, that no purchase of plant, herb or any thing available in the garden shall be made except through the Curator.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. Annual Report on the administration of the Persian Gulf Political Residency, and Muscat Political Agency for 1874-75. 2. Report on the Settlement of the Ajmere and Mharwarra districts by J. D. LaTouche, Esq., B.C.S. 3. Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of British India for the month of May 1875-76, and for the two months ending 31st May 1875-76, compared with the corresponding periods of the years 1873-74, 1874-75. 4. Shunkar, a tale of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, published by Messrs Sampson, Law, Marston, Low and Searle, London 1874. 5. Sambandhanirnaya or a social history of the principal Hindu castes in Bengal. By Lal Mohan Vidyanidhi, Head Master, Normal School, Krishnagar. 6. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Part II No. II, 1875. 7. Gyanankur Vol. III No. XI for Asvin, 1282 B.S. 8. Vikharini, Vol. I. No. I for Kartik 1282 B.S.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London 18th October—France has sent a note to Turkey, protesting against the default on payment of coupons. Other Powers are expected to make collective representations.

16th October.—The American Agricultural Bureau report the condition of the cotton crop as having improved during the past month in Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas, but as having slightly deteriorated in other States. As compared with October 1874 the prospects are worse in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, but are decidedly better in the States westward of Alabama. The general average is 85 72 per cent.

19th October.—The King and Queen of Denmark are coming to England to remain until the beginning of December, and then return with the Princess of Wales and her children to spend Christmas at Copenhagen. Reported Russian preparations for an expedition against Bokhara for assisting Khokanders is denied at St. Petersburg.

21st October.—Prince of Wales has left Athens: his reception in Greece has been extremely cordial. England and Russia have declined to join collective representation of Powers to Turkey respecting the default in the payment of coupons.

Athens 18th October.—The Prince of Wales arrived here at 10 o'clock this morning, and was received by King George of Greece. The town and all vessels in harbour were decorated with flags, and the reception generally was most enthusiastic.

Milan, 18th October.—The Emperor of Germany arrived here to-day and received a splendid welcome from King Victor Emmanuel.

20th October.—This city is the scene of splendid festivities in honor of the Emperor William, who has expressed a hope of cordial and enduring friendship between Italy and Germany.

Shanghai, 20th October.—Mr. Wade adds to his notification that Mr. Grosvenor, whilst proceeding to Yunan, availed himself of the opportunity to insist on a better observance of treaty, especially as regards taxation on trade; and that the Chinese agreed to enquire into and prepare a report upon this subject as the basis for further negotiations. Mr. Wade further states that no new trade convention could be operatively negotiated by one Minister single handed, but must be accepted by all the representatives alike. The latter announcement has caused surprise here. No other stipulations are notified. Messrs. Grosvenor and Baber start on Saturday if possible. Mr. Wade and the Admiral have arrived at Shanghai. Mr. Wade returns to Pekin shortly.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1875.

THE PRESIDENCY BANKS.

THE Government has notified through the *Pioneer* or rather the *Pioneer* has notified on behalf of the Government that its proprietary connection with the Presidency Banks shall cease at once, and that its shares shall be gradually offered to the market. About three years ago the Government of India had addressed the following letter to the Secretary to the Bank of Bengal:

"To the Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Bengal.

Simla. the 3rd June 1872.—Sir,—By a despatch No. 123, dated 21st March 1872, His Grace the Secretary of State for India has finally instructed the Government of India to "take measures for discontinuing the connection of Government with the Presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras, both as a shareholder and part manager, on the expiration of the agreements now in force between the banks and the Government.

2. The Secretary of State will "not object to the public balances being left in the custody of the Banks if a plan can be devised by which, without continuing to be a shareholder or taking a direct part in the management, the Government can be satisfied, from time to time, that the banks are prudently conducted and in a sound condition; and his Grace asks for a statement of the detailed arrangements which the Government of India would suggest as best calculated to secure continuous information of this nature as to the state and management of the Banks."

3. I am directed by the Right Hon. the Governor General in Council, in communicating these instructions to the Directors of the Bank of Bengal, to request that they will submit, for the consideration of the Government of India, the arrangements which they would recommend for carrying into effect the orders of the Secretary of State, so far as the Bank of Bengal is concerned.

4. I am to enquire specifically—

(*1st.*)—In what way the Directors of the Bank of Bengal consider that the Government should dispose of its shares, so as, while securing the full rights of the State, to cause as little injury as possible to the private proprietary of the bank.

(*2nd.*)—On what conditions the Bank of Bengal will be willing to continue to transact the public business which it now performs, after the expiration of the existing contract and when the Government shall have ceased to be shareholders in the Bank and to take a direct part in its management.

(*3rd.*)—What arrangements should be made to satisfy the Government that the bank will be so conducted as to secure the safety of the public balances, should it be decided to leave them with the bank, bearing in mind that it will be necessary, under the altered arrangements, that the Government shall take no direct part in the management of the bank.

5. It is desirable that the Government of India should decide upon the recommendation to be submitted to the Secretary of State without any unnecessary delay, and I am accordingly to request that the reply of the Directors may be given at their early convenience."

Similar notices were served upon the other Presidency Banks. The day of execution has, it seems, at last arrived. No one can dispute the right of the Government to sever its connection with the Banks. The opinion of high economic authorities is in favor of such a measure. But considering the peculiar circumstances of India the question is whether the Government is justified in making the proposed severance. It needs be remembered that from the relation which the Government has always borne to the Presidency Banks these have been regarded by the people as Government institutions, and hence the unlimited confidence reposed in them. Take the history of the Bank of Bengal. It was established in 1806 at the instance of Government under the name and style of the Bank of Calcutta with a capital of sicca rupees 50,00,000 in five hundred shares of ten thousand sicca rupees each. The first Charter is dated the 2nd January 1809, and the designation was then altered to what it now bears viz., *the Bank of Bengal*. The Charter declared that the affairs of the Bank shall be managed by nine Directors, *three* of whom shall be nominated by Government to represent their interest, (100 shares,) and *six* by the proprietors. The first Board of Directors was constituted as follows:

Henry St. George Tucker, Esquire *President.*
William Egerton, Esq.
Richard Waite Cox, Esq.
Alexander Colvin, Esq. | James Alexander, Esq.
John Palmer, Esq. | John W. Fulton, Esq.
George Tyler, Esq. | Maharaj a Sookmoy Roy.

The first three were the *ex officio* Government Directors; the last six were elected at a public meeting, held at the Town Hall on the 15th December 1808. The Government always had a direct interest in the Bank. It now holds we believe 275 shares of Rs. 4,000 each. The Government had further secured its voice in the management of the Bank giving the secretaryship to a Bengal Civilian. Since the establishment of the Bank all the Secretaries except four were Bengal Civilians, to wit:

YEAR.	NAME.	YEAR	NAME.
1806	J. W. Sherer, C. S.	1830	Richard Udny, Esq. C. S.
1808	W. Morton, Esq. C. S.	,,	George Udny, Esq. C. S.
1815	Henry Wood, Esq. C. S.	1840	Thomas Bracken, Esq. C.S.
1816	Charles Morley, Esq. C.S.	1847	Charles Hogg, Esq.
1820	W. H. Oakes Esq. C. S.	1851	W. Grey, Esq. C. S.
1822	C. T. Glass, Esq.	1854	T. B. Plumb, Esq.
1892	J. A. Dorin, Esq. C. S.	1860	George Dickson, Esq.

It would be thus seen that out of fourteen Secretaries to the Bank only four were outsiders. Although the Government reserved to itself the right of severing its connection with the Bank, it has for the last sixty-six years maintained that connection, and it has therefore been virtually regarded as a Government Bank. The high premia which its shares have always commanded in the market owed their origin chiefly to this circumstance. It is well known that the natives hold a good number of the shares of the Bank, and we can state broadly that were it not for the fact that the Bank was to all intents and purposes a Government institution, they would not have embarked their capital in it. They were confirmed in this belief by the relation of the Government with the Bank for the last sixty-six years. And not only they, but Old Indians including many a widow and orphan, who have a large stake in the Bank, would, we fear, regard the proposed severance of Government connection with it as a breach of public faith. Already there is a panic among them. The Government has been apparently led to the present resolution by the discreditable position to which it was reduced by the mismanagement of the old Bank of Bombay. Of course the relation of the Government with the Presidency Banks is a general

question, but the case of the Bank of Bengal has some peculiar features. Would it not have been more reasonable if it had made that a ground for making the hold of Government over the Bank tighter? We cannot believe that the Government has been frightened into this course by the bugbear of legal responsibility for loss sustained by private shareholders. That point has been satisfactorily solved by the highest legal authorities in England. It was the Government, which practically forced the Bank to increase its capital, and to open the Branches in the interior. The Government ought, therefore, to remember that by taking these steps the Bank has incurred a serious responsibility. The prospects of its dividends have been diminished, while its risks and liabilities have been increased. Again, the Bank of Bengal had the exclusive privilege of a circulation of bank-notes, which averaged at one crore and sixty lakhs, and latterly rose to two crores and fifty lakhs. By establishing a State Paper Currency the Government has taken away from the Bank this source of profit. We do not question the soundness of the policy of the Government in taking over the paper currency in its own hands, but so far as the Bank is concerned it has been a sufferer; the Government has of course compensated the loss by making over to it the Treasury Balances, but that is hardly sufficient. It may be said that the private shareholders ought to be able to manage their own affairs, that they should not hanker after Government management, when the public are so ready to condemn it in the administration of its finances. True, but the Government ought to take India as it is. It cannot apply to India *nolens volens* the principles, which may have worked well in England, but even there the Government has a direct interest in the Bank of England. We have said above that the natives hold a good number of the shares of the Bank, but how resolutely have they been shut out from its Direction? The only Native Director ever appointed was Raja Sookmoy Roy, who was a foundation Director. But since his retirement no other native has been elected. Even the famous Dwarkanath Tagore failed to break down the monopoly. He tried once or twice to obtain a seat in the Direction but without success. We do not mean to say that Native Directors would be a guarantee against mismanagement, but we state this fact simply to show how disadvantageously are the native shareholders situated. It is unnecessary for us to point out to the Government the advantage of a quasi State Bank in a country like this. If its credit is at present so high, it is entirely owing to the Bank of Bengal. The skill with which that Bank had hitherto managed its operations steadily contributed to the advance of the credit of Government and enabled it to borrow money in England at cheap rates. It cannot be said that the Government competes with private enterprise by having a pecuniary interest in the Presidency Banks. These Banks are restricted from applying their capital to that particular branch of business, which is the chief source of profit to private Banks, we mean the exchange business. Strictly speaking the Presidency Banks are Loan Companies, and the Government shares are but a subsidy to them. It is observable that the private Banks have never complained of Government connection with the Presidency Banks. In fact it is these Banks, which have in critical times saved the other Banks. In 1865-66, if the Bank of Bengal had not come to the rescue of some of the leading local Banks, what a smash would have ensued? The Presidency Banks are the sheet anchors of the private Banks, and the latter would suffer if the former were reduced to their level. We do not know on what terms the Government has arranged with the Directors of the Presidency Banks to dissolve partnership. A local contemporary some time ago mentioned the following conditions as forming the basis of negociations:

1.—That the Bank shall act as bankers to Government obtaining as remuneration for such service the temporary use of such portion of the Government cash balance—up to and not in excess of, say, £450,000, —as Government may not require for the payment of demands upon it, the whole Government cash balance being shewn in the books of the Bank as such, and the whole excess of that balance over £450,000 being subject to Government inspection, as is now the cash balance held by the new Bank of Bombay.

2.—That should the Government deposits fall below £450,000, Government will not have to pay the Bank interest on the difference between their sum and £450,000.

3.—The Bank to act as Government banker in the large towns of the interior on terms corresponding to the above.

4.—The Bank to receive an annual payment (Rs. 40,606 is the amount so paid at present) for the management of the Central Treasury business.

5.—The Bank to continue to undertake the management of the public debt, including the payment of interest, and to be paid a fixed sum per million sterling per annum for so doing.

6.—The Bank to bind itself not to deal in foreign exchange.

These were nearly the terms which Sir Charles Wood had proposed in 1866. We do not know how far they have been adopted by the Government or agreed to by the Directors of the Banks. We, however, hope that no arrangement will be completed without the whole question being laid before the shareholders for discussion. It is they and not the Directors who are directly interested in the future of the Banks.

But the question arises—will it conduce to the interests of commerce in Calcutta to allow the Bank of Bengal to devote its capital to exchange operations, which it must do in order to make up loss from the severance of Government connection with it? That transaction will necessarily curtail its means to give accommodation to trade, and the limitation of such accommodation will lead to the limitation of trade, and the limitation of trade to the limitation of revenue and public prosperity. Credit is the soul of trade, but the Bank is the repository of such credit. A merchant may have large capital floating in the sea in the shape of goods shipped, but unless he can raise money upon his credit bills, his operations are sure to come to a dead-lock. It was the growing expansion of trade which led Mr. St. George Tucker, the great Civilian financier, to project the present Bank of Bengal. Instances had occurred before the establishment of the Bank when the Government had felt its duty to advance money from its treasury to save the credit of wealthy merchants, who had not capital at hand to meet their pressing dues. They had money enough, aye more than enough, to meet the demands upon them, but it was locked up in goods floating in the sea. It was then the Government felt the necessity of establishing a Bank for the accommodation of commerce. It is true that since then numerous private Banks have sprung into existence, but none of them has sufficient capital to meet the calls of trade. The Bank of Bengal alone is in a position to perform the function of a general creditor, but the shareholders may well say that it is the State and general community, which will benefit by the limitation of the Bank's business to banking accommodation only, and if the Government is not willing to take a part of the responsibility, they are in no wise bound to assume the whole of it. It needs be remembered that the great bulk of the shares in the Bank of Bengal are held by trust estates, which were hitherto regarded to be as good and safe as Government securities. This sense of safety has of course been imparted by the fact of the Government owning a portion of the shares, but the moment its connection with the Bank as part proprietor will be dissolved, it is doubtful whether the trustees of such estates will consider it consistent with their duty to continue to hold the shares. And if these shares be withdrawn the Bank is sure to suffer, and with it the general public. It is therefore in the interests of the State and the general public we hold that the Government ought not to withdraw its shares from the Bank. In the official controversy on the subject, Lord Sandhurst (Sir William Mansfield) observed that the sole object of Government connection with the Presidency Banks "was such a basis of security as would enable the Government to use the Banks for the discharge of public functions, while affording, at the same time, safe starting points for the commerce of the several Presidencies. Consequently, if there be an anomaly in such a connection as alleged, the anomaly has very special grounds, the action pursued with regard to which not having as yet disappointed either the public or the Government." "We hear," he continued, "much of private enterprise in India, but we observe that, whenever the objects are large requiring extending credit, not only must that be aided and supplemented by the State but the administration is also called on to assist in the management of the undertaking concerned. In short, the capitalist will not come forward either in England or in India, for the development of the latter, unless he have a security for returns of his capital both in money and vigilant superintendence. We should inflict a severe, perhaps a deadly, wound on the growing credit of the country, by a hasty change in a system which enlists the confidence of the people as being in harmony with their views on other matters, and with their habits of thought." In conclusion His Excellency was opposed to any system of inspection or audit, because "it would step in after the occurrence of misfortune or the breach of important rules. In short, it would be powerless to check offenders and therefore too late to avert calamity."

The position of British India, as we have often urged, is exceptional, and we hope the Government will not capriciously apply to it rules, which may suit a country quite differently situated, but which will here, we fear, force a crisis in the money market and in general trade, calculated to prove ultimately most disastrous to the empire.

IN RE STEVENS OF ASSAM.

WE regret for the sake of the Government of India that the Special Commissioner's report on the above case has not yet been laid before the public. That mysterious paragraph in the *Pioneer* purporting that the Government has disposed of the case by a sort of "aside" has done more harm than good so far as the credit of Government for scrupulous attention to the security of life and property of its subjects is concerned. We can believe that the case with the Special Commissioner's report on it is not yet in a condition to be exposed to public criticism, but then the semi-official statement in the Allahabad paper was quite *misapropos*. While we are inclined to give the Government every credit for its good intentions in securing for every class of its subjects even-handed justice, the conduct of its officers in the interior located beyond the reach of efficient control is not at all calculated to improve its position in public estimation. In the Assam murder case which we summarize below the Government has been seriously compromised. We are not in a position to publish the report of the Special Commissioner, who was assisted by a clever Deputy Magistrate, Babu Hemchunder Ker, accustomed to sift native evidence, but our narrative we may mention contains the facts as found by Mr. Cockerell.

The reader doubtless remembers that in August last year Mr. H. A. Stevens, Assistant Manager of a tea garden in Assam, with two native employes of the same concern were sent to Calcutta to take their trial in the High Court on a charge of wilful murder. The case broke down for want of evidence—in fact, it appeared to the Court that there was scarcely any evidence which justified the committal. This gave rise to a hue and cry from the independent section of the European community, who complained of the wrong done to Mr. Stevens by subjecting him to the indignity of a criminal trial both in Assam and Calcutta, and depriving him of his liberty for a length of time, not to mention the expense and trouble incidental to such proceedings. They went to the length of insinuating that Mr. Stevens was the victim of a conspiracy amongst his amlah who had been aided by the police. The Government of India in concession to public opinion appointed Mr. F. R. Cockerell, an able officer, as a Special Commissioner associating with him Babu Hemchunder Ker as personal assistant, for the purpose of enquiring into the truth of the allegations and ascertaining the grounds of the charge on which Mr. Stevens was arraigned.

The facts which this enquiry elicited were that on the 26th April 1874 Dantessur Gogye of Laheng Mouza the village where the murdered man lived gave information to the police in writing that his brother Habiram was missing for some days past. On the same day only a few hours after Dantessur's informa-

tion, the head-men of the same village sent in a written report to the same thanna (Jorehaut) that a body which looked very like that of Habiram was found lying at a spot a mile and half from Habiram's residence. On this a Head Constable was sent to hold a local enquiry ; upon second thought the Sub-Inspector of the Jorehaut Police Station followed him. The second officer overtook the constable on the way who was so energetic that he could not finish a journey of 23 miles in two days. From the evidence of Dantessur Gogye, the man who had first given the information about his missing brother Habiram, it appeared that Habiram had set out for Seling Tea Factory on the ninth or last day of Bihu festival, which usually commenced on the last day of the month of Chaitra, the festival itself was observed for nine days. That he was in holiday attire and had a stick and umbrella with him when he left. The object of his visit to the tea-garden was to obtain more money for the construction of a road of which he had taken a contract, and for which he had already obtained an advance of Rupees 50. He was missed on the third day when search was made at the tea garden by Dantessur and two other brothers Deobur and Roodiram. Dhononjoi a Mohurir of the Factory admitted that Habiram had come to the Factory on the day mentioned, but knew nothing of his further movements. In the deposition of Dantessur allusion was made to the open rupture which broke out between Ghinloga, a Factory servant, and Habiram, on account of a gun presented to the latter by Mr. Williamson, the manager of the Seling Tea Garden, that in this collision blows had been given, and it was suspected that the deceased had met his death at the hands of Ghinloga. The examination of the father of the deceased and his two brothers threw no new light on the case. They in fact confirmed the statements of Dantessur.

The enquiry was shifted to the Seling Tea Garden where Dhononjoi Mohurir and Shekh Ghinloga were examined as well as Mr. Williamson the Manager, and Mr. Stevens the Assistant Manager. Of the two former, Dhononjoi repeated what he had said elsewhere, only he added that the deceased when he went away was accompanied by the Mohurir's brother and three other persons. The Manager and the Assistant Manager believed that the deceased must have been struck by lightning in the thunder-storm which took place on the day he visited the garden last time. Secret enquiries were also made by the police at night amongst the garden coolies. The village people deposed to their having heard that from the last day of the festival Habiram was not to be found, also to the occurence of a thunder-storm on that day, and to the fact of a quarrel between Habiram and Ghinloga on account of a gun.

The body of the deceased, which was lying just as it was found by Deobur, was inspected by the Sub-Inspector, who stated that it was in a mutilated condition and in an advanced state of decomposition. One arm wrenched off, eyes gone, some teeth wanting and some ribs wanting, but it was still sufficiently perfect to enable a friend or relative to identify it ; one thing remarkable was that there were no marks of man or beast having gone the place where the body was lying nor did the condition of the surrounding grass shew that it had been trampled upon.

When the Sub-Inspector related to the Inspector on his return to the Police Station the condition of the body and expressed his opinion of death having been caused by lighting, the Inspector did not seem to be satisfied and said that he would enquire into the case personally. In the meantime the Sub-Inspector submitted his report of enquiry to the Magistrate in charge of the Jorehat Sub-Division, and after relating all that he had seen and heard concluded with his opinion that the deceased had come by his death by lightning, *informing at the same time that he had on his responsibility ordered the body to be buried.* Mr. Hinde, the *pro tem* Sub-Divisional Officer, endorsed his order on this report to the effect that the body should be subjected to a *post mortem* medical examination, and that the enquiry should be re-opened by a competent police officer. The Inspector had sufficient tact to persuade the Magistrate to defer this enquiry until an intermediate secret enquiry by another Head Constable was held. In the meantime the body had been exhumed and brought at the instance of the Sub-Inspector. The Inspector had also in his report to the District Superintendent expressed his intention to take up the enquiry himself.

In the Head Constable's report subsequently received, in addition to the report on the quarrel about a gun, allusion was made to a threat used by Ghinloga to Habiram, which implied intention of serious bodily harm to the deceased. The Head Constable further added that in his opinion Habiram had been murdered, that the body where it had been found could not have been there from the day Habiram was missing as the village people often passed that way and must have observed it; neither did he think that wild beasts or lightning had any share in the death, as there were no marks or foot-prints and the grass was all fresh.

The remains after examination by the Native Doctor were by him ordered to be buried, while in his report in describing the state of the body he expressed his opinion of the deceased having met with a violent death.

The Inspector now had commenced his enquiry. He began by examining an independent villager, that is one not connected with the Factory or Habiram's family. This man said indicating the spot where the body was found that he had seen a man like Ghinloga running away early one morning followed by a cooly of the Seling Tea Garden, named Ramgutty, to the direction of the Tea Garden, the time mentioned by him was the time of the conclusion of the festival. In the examination of Ramgutty which followed, three chowkidars of the Tea Garden were involved, they were Bulloram, Motiram and Jatiram. Their confessions were taken down and they were arrested and sent to the Sub-divisional officer at Jorehaut, and the Inspector at the same time applied for a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Stevens. The Sub-divisional Magistrate granted the warrant and also ordered the remains of the deceased to be exhumed for the second time and sent to the Civil Surgeon at Sibsagar. This order about the exhumation was held in abeyance until Mr. Hinde completed his personal enquiry at Seling To Seling that officer went and there himself arrested Mr. Stevens. The prisoner was subsequently bailed by a bond of Rs. 1,000 executed by his Manager and another planter belonging to a neighbouring Tea Garden. The Magistrate's enquiries ended in nothing, and Mr. Stevens though on bail was brought with him to Jorehaut as a prisoner. After a confinement of about four days Mr. Stevens was let out on his former bail, he having reserved his defence. In the meantime a difficulty arose about the powers of the *pro tem* officer, Mr. Hinde, in charge of the Jorehaut Sub-division. He referred to the Deputy Commissioner on the point and was told in reply that the case might stand over until Captain Philips, the Assistant Commissioner, took charge. In the meantime Shekh Ghinloga and Dhononjoi Mohurir had been arrested on their own confession of being parties to the assault on Habiram. Nearly a fortnight after the last proceeding the Chief Commissioner telegraphed to the Deputy Commissioner to get the case into his own court. It was only when the Police Inspector submitted his final report in the form technically called the A Form, that Captain Philips ordered the case being sent to the Deputy Commissioner and also the re-arrest of Mr. Stevens. In his report the Inspector had entered the names of Ramgutti and Jatiram, two out of the four chowkidars and coolies who had been first arrested by him as parties implicated in the murder, as witnesses for the prosecution, and the other two Bulloram and Motiram he recommended to be pardoned and also converted into Queen's evidence.

At the trial which ensued at the Deputy Commissioner Major Lance's Court at Sibsagar on the 8th June, the first thing the Deputy did was to tender pardon to the two prisoners named by the Inspector and to admit the other two only as witnesses. The evidence of Dantesswar Gogye as given before the Deputy Commissioner was substantially what he had given before the police and the Sub-divisional Magistrate. The evidence of the four witnesses who had been originally made defendants in the case and subsequently admitted as witnesses varied on some material points before the Deputy Commissioner, and went far towards exculpating Mr. Stevens. Evidently they had been tampered with in the interval. The evidence of the native doctor was consistent throughout, that is, he repeated what he had said in his report. The Civil Surgeon, however, did not agree with him, he accounted for the broken ribs by the circumstance of decay and not violence. The depositions of other witnesses were taken down, amongst whom was the Head Constable, who immediately preceded the Inspector in the Police enquiry. At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Stevens asked one of the witnesses, just referred to, to be recalled and re-examined. This man recanted what he had said. After taking down his second deposition the Deputy Commissioner committed him for perjury, when the man stuck to his original statement, saying that he had changed his statement through the instigation of Mr. Stevens. The latter being at large or under nominal restraint seemed to give him facility for tampering with witnesses. He was therefore put in regular confinement in the jail at Sibsagar. After re-examination of certain witnesses for the prosecution as to the particular day and date on which the assault upon the deceased took place, the examination of the witnesses in support of the prosecution closed. Mr. Stevens urged in defence that he was not at the Factory on the alleged day and hour of the assault, that he was in a neighbouring factory from 5 P. M. Other witnesses for the defence deposed to having witnessed his riding on a red pony to that Factory at about 7 P. M. Mr. Williamson, the Manager of the Seling Factory in which Mr. Stevens was an Assistant deposed to his having ridden the same red pony in the evening to a place about 14 miles distant, and in this he was supported by Mr. Lawrie the Manager of the neighbouring factory already referred to ; a coolie named Chutar of Mr. Stevens' factory, who was produced as a witness for the defence, deposed to his having seen Habiram being taken to the factory bungalow accompanied by Motiram, Ghinloga, and Dhanunjoi Mohurir, that shortly after he heard sounds of beating and cries from the Bungalow, and then he saw Habiram run out of the room and jump down from the verandah for fear of his life and that he was taken away and confined in a godown by Ghinloga and Motiram.

From the above rapid sketch of the facts elicited by the Police and Judicial enquiry our readers will have perceived whether or not the man Habiram had been actually murdered, by whom and where. The enquiry made by the Special Commissioner fully established that there was not sufficient legal evidence for the committal of Mr. Stevens and his alleged accomplices to a criminal trial in the High Court. We cannot resist the moral conviction that a murder had been committed, but the charge was not brought home to the accused. The Police enquiry was made in the most perfunctory manner, and the conduct of the superior authorities was no better. Indeed, this case affords a sad instance of the want of regularity in a non-regulation district. From beginning to end there was such an utter want of knowledge, method, and common sense that if such a case had occurred in a native state, our Government would have been justified in enquiring as to whether a prince in whose dominion such a gross miscarriage of justice occurred was fit to rule. But the British Government is all-powerful, and no Asiatic power can call it to book. It is such a scandalous case that the Government has not dared to publish the report of the Special Commissioner upon it. We may however observe that the public would not have heard one hundredth part of the matter, if a European had not been implicated. Thanks to European energy and spirit the case has been sifted to the bottom, so far as it could be at such a distance of time. And what does it disclose ? Here was an innocent subject of the Queen cooly murdered, and no one is detected or punished. Then the charge of murder was fastened upon persons against whom there was no legal evidence whatever .Could any thing be more scandalous and discreditable to the British Government than such a case ? And yet who can say how many such

cases occur in the Mofussil but do not see the light of publicity, because it is the habit of the natives to cry with doors shut!

COMPETITION *vrs.* UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY is not a popular institution; and its unpopularity we believe accounts for the unfavorable view, which our contemporary of the *Englishman* takes of University education as an intellectual test. In noticing in our last Sir Richard Temple's Resolution on the subject of the admission of candidates into what is popularly called Sir George Campbell's Native Civil Service we made a few brief remarks, commenting on the principle on which it was based, viz., that henceforth no candidate should be admitted to the competitive test, who had not taken the B. A. degree or passed the little-go. We remarked that "the Government ought to take the best commodity available in the market, and when University graduates are so plentiful, we do not see why it should content itself with third-rate articles." The *Englishman* finds fault with our logic. Our contemporary says, "in the premiss that 'Government ought to take the best commodity available in the market,' we entirely concur, and our own argument is based upon it." But he does not admit that the University Graduate is necessarily "the best candidate available in the market." Of course he has as much right to his own opinion as we have to ours, and so long as he sticks to it, he is quite justified in holding the view he favours. But we cannot persuade ourselves to think that the University graduate is not "the best candidate available in the market." The University is the highest educational machinery in the country; with all its short-comings it fosters high education in the country; and when the candidate is labelled and warranted by the University, it is to be presumed that he possesses superior attainments to the general herd of candidates for the Native Civil Service. There are two classes of persons, who by their general education and culture may be fitly considered eligible to the Native Civil Service, viz., the old scholars of the Hindu and other State colleges in Bengal and the graduates of the University. The former, who have had the good fortune of winning some success in life, have already taken their proper places in it. Either they are employed in the service of Government, and in that case are probably well advanced in it, or are engaged in some independent occupation or in private employ. They are generally advanced in years, and are for the most part not prepared to begin life anew. If they are in the service of Government, and if they still wish to take to a new walk in life such as the Subordinate Executive Service, the exception made in the minute of the Lieutenant Governor in favour of those, who have served Government for six years if candidates for the first class, and three years, if candidates for the second class, covers them, and they have no reason to complain. But we believe there are now few of the pre-University era, willing to begin life again. Then come the large number of persons, who have failed for some reasons or other in University education, and the question is whether it would be in the interest of the public service to place them on an equal footing, as regards admission into it, with those who have taken labor and pains to pass the University test. That test whether sufficient or not is the only intellectual test recognized by the State in this country. If it is not a sufficient test, by all means raise its value or standard, but it cannot be just to maintain that test, and ignore its practical worth in the dispensation of Government patronage. Could any thing be more unreasonable or more unjust than to put the University graduate and the person who has not probably passed even the entrance examination on an equal footing for competition for the public service? It needs be remembered that at the present day University degrees and honors are open to all Indian students. There is not a school in the town or in the Mofussil, which if it aims at a decent standard of instruction does not send up students to the University examinations. If the student has any merit, ten to one he passes, and the field being thus open to all—should no encouragement be held out to those, who might win the race in the University examinations? It might be said that success in these examinations is more frequently a chance than otherwise, for the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but the same observation applies to competitive examinations. Success in these examinations is also a chance; why should then success in the University examinations be undervalued? It is observable that it is absolutely necessary that a candidate for the public service should have a good ground-work in general education, and the University degree is a fair test of that ground-work. If the Government should withdraw the condition of University degree, it must then prescribe a fresh test for the general education of candidates, and what reason is there to suppose that this test would be better than the University test?

If the University test has any meaning it means that those who pass it possess certain recognized qualifications, and we do not hesitate to say that compared with unpassed and untried men they may fitly be considered first class articles, and when such articles are plentiful we do not think that the Government would be justified in taking inferior articles for the same price. As for moral worth, no candidate for University examinations is admitted without a certificate of character, and an outsider offering for the competitive examination cannot produce better. Such being the case we submit that the man who has passed the more severe discipline of University education has a better claim to the public service than the one, who has not.

EUROPEAN MEDICINE IN INDIA.

DR. WALKER, the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries, N. W. P. revives the discussion of an important question, namely, the usefulness of that numerous rising class of medical assistants popularly called Native Doctors and professionally licentiates and apothecaries, as missionaries of the European system of medicine. As the Government is endeavouring to diffuse amongst the people the blessings of cheap medical advice and aid by means of this class of medical practitioners, for whose training schools have been opened in various parts of the empire, it becomes an important consideration as to how far that advice and aid is of any use and to what extent they are appreciated by the people. Economy certainly is always an important point in State expenditure where it can be combined with utility, but where that is not secured even the little that is spent is simply thrown away. In scientific professions the usefulness of professional men cannot be wholly dependent on professional education, which even under the most elaborate system is often of an elementary character. One condition under which that education may be turned to the best advantage is the preparatory general education of the person engaged in a profession and his ability to improve upon professional education by reading, observation, and experience. Native Doctors as a body enter the medical schools in Bengal with just so much knowledge as is necessary for a candidate to pass in the senior vernacular scholarship examination, that being the knowledge required of them as a qualification for admission. Some amongst them may have a knowledge of English to the extent of the standard prescribed for the Calcutta University entrance examination, and where that knowledge is possessed it is a great help to them in the acquisition of a knowledge of the European system of medicine. The medical instruction imparted to students of this class in the course of three years' study is necessarily of a very elementary character. And most of the students enter upon the duties of life with this rudimentary knowledge with scarcely any capacity to improve upon it by subsequent study. It may be well imagined to what extent the services of such medical practitioners are useful to the public. In 1863 Dr. Walker passed the following opinion upon these practitioners.:

"I think that in all possible cases a sub-assistant surgeon ought to be appointed to the charge of each dispensary. The education of a native doctor makes him a tolerable surgical assistant, but is not intended to qualify him to be an independent operator, and it must not be forgotten that any popularity which a dispensary acquires in a neighbourhood invariably results from the quick and certain benefits of a bold but discriminating surgery. The question of rewarding deserving native doctors by placing them in charge of dispensaries is one quite apart from their fitness for the duties they will be called on to discharge. My own experience and that of every medical officer is, that not one native doctor in five hundred is fit to be entrusted with the sole charge of a dispensary. In making this statement, I am not undervaluing the services of our native doctors; I am merely asserting that they will be placed in positions for which their education never intended them; and although the reward may be well bestowed on them as individuals, the end of supplying dispensaries with efficient medical aid will not be obtained."

We do not think there is one amongst our readers with any experience of these practitioners, who has a word to say in dissent, though we are free to confess that there are honorable exceptions to the general body. After a lapse of more than ten years Dr. Walker found no reason to alter or modify that opinion. He says:

"After the lapse of good many years and with added experience, I cannot modify the opinions which I then expressed. That there are popular subordinates of the native doctor or hospital assistant class in charge of branch dispensaries I do not deny, but their popularity depends, not on the practice of western medicines or surgery, but on social qualifications, or on their readiness to adopt the Humoral Pathology of the Baids and Hakims, and talk glibly about hot and cold medicines and food, throwing overboard all that they have ever learnt in our schools."

Dr. Walker is wrong in saying that the native doctors in practical life throw over-board the knowledge of English medicine acquired in that medical school. The truth is that a smattering of knowledge is not sufficient for purposes of practical life and is therefore supplemented with a hodge-podge of Hindu and Mahamedan medicines, quack-simples and pussary drugs, a knowledge of which is acquired by hearsay. If the Native Doctors could make an intelligent application of these medicines, there would not be much room for the complaint, but unfortunately that is not the case. Many of our distinguished Assistant Surgeons derive great help from the indegenous medicines.

The Inspector General continues:

"There is no use in closing our eyes to the fact that the natives have no faith whatever in European medicine, they come to a dispensary as a last resource in medical cases, after having tried all the remedies suggested by the village Hakims and skilled old women of their acquaintance. In surgery it is otherwise. Here the strength of western science is apparent at once; and the natives are not slow to appreciate the results. But we require men trained up to the point of assistant surgeons before we can expect any important surgical work to be performed. Therefore, I regret now, as I did in 1863, that the rule laid down by Mr. Thomason in 1851, as one of the conditions under which a dispensary should be opened, namely, "that the services of a sub-assistant surgeon be available to undertake that duties," was ever departed from. I think that it would have been better to have limited the number of hospitals in each district, making the staff of those opened thoroughly efficient, especially for surgical work, than to have opened so many small dispensaries as we have now at work, practically uncontrolled and practically of very little use."

This opinion we submit ought to be received with some modification. The lower orders of the people and rusticated gentlemen in the interior know little of European medicine and have therefore not only no respect for it but deep prejudice against it. Those that have any faith in European medicine do not try any other. If they ever do so it is the hap-hazard resort in a moment of despair. Dr. Walker stretches his point a little too far in implicitly denying to native doctors any credit for a knowledge of practical surgery. Ordinary operations some of them perform with great skill and many nearly come up to the standard of the Assistant Surgeons. In difficult cases native doctors fail nearly as much as the Assistant Surgeons. Sir John Strachey endorses the opinion of the Inspector General. The disrepute which European medicine meets with amongst the natives, who formerly valued it may be owing to the ill-formed and inexperienced dispensation and advice of the native doctors. In Bengal things have not yet come to that pass, though the principle contended for holds good as much here as in the North-West. If the treatment of the dispensaries is made light of here, it is on account of the indifferent way in which patients are treated. The following admission by the North West Government argues a very abnormal state of things:

"The result of such a policy has been no other than might have been expected. The European system of medicine has become, as Dr. Walker says, discredited with the people. The abuses of our dispensaries are now a stale topic with the vernacular press. A most unmistakeable proof of the way native opinion is tending is furnished by the increased support given by Municipal Committees to native Hakims. In 1872, the number of these municipal practitioners was 5; in 1873, 13; in 1874, 18; and in 1875, 22. One case has already occurred in which a Municipal Committee desired to

withdraw all aid from the Government dispensary for the purpose of supporting an Hakim, and there is no question that the support given to the Government dispensary is only given because of the known wishes of the Government. Indeed it is not to be wondered at that the Hospital Assistant should stand below the Hakim in popular esteem. The former is the apostle of an unknown and dreaded system; and as a rule he possesses neither the knowledge nor the means for presenting it in a favourable light. Besides, the Hakim is constrained by his position to do his utmost to gain for himself popular esteem; the Hospital Assistant, living on his fixed Government stipend, is frequently careless of it."

We think it is a great mistake and false economy to place native doctors anywhere in independent charge. They are not only placed in charge of minor dispensaries but also of jail hospitals and dispensaries all over Bengal and the upper provinces. They may be best utilized as aids to the Civil Surgeon and the Assistant Surgeon acting under their immediate control and supervision. But is the whole body of native doctors to be condemned to the ignominious condition of irretrievable serfage? There are or may be amongst them men of high intelligence, and quick parts who will chafe under this restraint. To guard against merit remaining unrequited we would recommend a system of examination after three years' service in which a knowledge of English should be made a special condition. Those that will come out of this test with credit may be relieved of the restraint of perpetual subordination.

THE CONTINENTAL JAILS.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Calcutta Review* contains an interesting article entitled "Among the Continental Jails." The writer says, "an official recommendation from the head of his department in the North-Western Provinces gave him access, through the various British Consuls, to every jail he desired to see, and in the whole course of his inspections in Egypt, Sicily, Italy, France, Germany, and Switzerland he met with nothing short of cordial kindness from Government officials of every grade." His observations have led the writer to conclude that there is a very erroneous impression prevalent in this country that there is in our Indian jails a culpable laxity of discipline and a pampering of the prisoners which tends to counteract very injuriously the criminal administration of the country. He observes: "Within late years this view found expression in a minute from the Bengal Secretariat, which in a manner painful to those who had watched the development of penal administration in Bengal, ignored the many years' labours of one of the ablest of our Indian jail reformers, and enunciated "terrorism" in unmistakable language as the nucleus from which a new system of management was to be organised. That this system is retrograde, few of wide experience will in our day care to deny. It has been well said (and it is nearly as applicable to India as to England) that if we pass clay through the fire we end in making bricks hardened in proportion to the "fieriness" of the furnace through which they are passed. Discipline is as distinct from terrorism as regimental rule is from slave-driving; the one is a necessity due to the security of the prisoner and the protection of society; the other, when resorted to, is the product of barbarous traditions and a feeble judgment. The laxity of discipline in Bengal was accounted for in a manner which laid itself not only open to the charge of being superficial, but one that was calculated to evoke an indignant denial from the class it affected, as well as from others who were conversant with the rise and progress of Jail administration in the North-Western Provinces where the experiment was first initiated." He continues: "That prison discipline is more forbidding in India than in any other civilized country in the world, admits of no doubt whatever, while England ranks second, *sed longo intervallo*. What the case may be in America is unknown to the writer, but only in the two countries above mentioned is flogging allowed even for breaches of prison law. In no other countries do cranks and treadmills exist; or, indeed, any form of unproductive labour as a judicial punishment; and only in these two is tobacco absolutely forbidden,—a privation only secondary to the prisoner's liberty. True enough Indian prisoners prefer re-imprisonment to starvation, for hunger is unquestionably the *ultima ratio* of 90 per cent. of re-committals. The "criminal classes" as they are understood in England, do not form two per cent. of our prison population, who are, as many experienced Superintendents have asserted, as trustworthy upon the whole as their unconvicted brethren." The writer chiefly confines his attention to the prisons in Italy, but his observations of Continental Jails generally confirm one fact, which is this that flogging is unknown on the continent. His remarks on this subject are so sensible and appropriate that we cannot resist the temptation of transcribing them below. Referring to the Jail in Catania he says:

"For offences against prison law there are five solitary cells, none of them dark. Confinement to these, with a few days' bread and water, is expected to instil discipline and pliancy into the most obdurate. Flogging is unknown, and a perceptible shudder passed over the graceful frame of the Governor on my asking him if he had not the power to inflict it. When I informed him that we in India have a magisterial authority to inflict thirty lashes on summary trial and without any written record of the evidence, he deliberately surveyed me from head to foot, the picture of bewildered amazement. "I think I have already mentioned that only in England and India is corporal punishment ever resorted to under any circumstances, and foreigners look upon our arbitrary powers of physical castigation in the light of a barbarous relic, much as we do upon the ordeals and thumb-screws of Egypt. Flogging, like blood-letting, is in some cases a necessity, but one which ought to be resorted to sparingly and with much discrimination. There are in England and also on the Continent brutal natures whom only the lash can reduce to the refinement of even the elements of obedience—men who understand no mercy themselves, and to whom little can be shown. An Italian brigand, a Lancashire wife-beater and a "black country" rough who pours quicklime into wounds he has himself deliberately inflicted, are too pachydermatous to yield to any influences less forcible than the "cat." When the "mild Hindoo" is concerned, the case is different. Stubborn he is often, lazy and apathetic he always is, but a milder stimulant than the lash might more frequently with advantage be had recourse to for such venial delinquencies. If prison superintendents in this country were allowed to inflict no more than ten lashes as a maximum for each offence, without sending an abstract of their reasons and the evidence on the whole case to their Inspectors-General, it would be a corrective not only to an irritable temper, but, in many cases, to a deficient, because a hastily-formed judgment. The maximum alluded to generally suffices as a corrective for the petty offences that daily occur where the guards are as venal as the convicts. Anything beyond is as dangerous to life as it is disproportionate to the offence. One case bearing on this subject came indirectly within my own cognizance, and it has made an indelible impression upon me. A pensioned non-commissioned officer of the native troops, who had been in our army against the Mahrattas at Maharajpore, and in the two Sikh campaigns in which Sobraon, Chillianwallah and Guzerat (the Waterloo of India) were fought, had become involved, many years after his retirement, in a village squabble and fight with *lathees*. In India these are as common, and generally as harmless, as a shillelah affray at Donnybrook Fair. Some field boundary or water-course dispute, and not *potheen* is the *casus belli*, and it happens occasionally in the heat of the conflict that one of the belligerents drives in an opponent's skull with his iron-bound club. The man I have referred to was sentenced to a few years' imprisonment for some such offence, and had done his work quietly and well in prison as became his almost life-long discipline. For some jail offence (a squabble about a piece of tobacco that had somehow, in spite of "rules and regulations," found its way into the prison), he and another man received thirty lashes each. This was too much for the old veteran, the cuts became sloughing ulcers, and in spite of the utmost care, nursing and diet, the "rattan" finished him off in about three weeks, it seemed hard, after having successfully gone through so many storm of Sikh grape, to have died like this. The case was pure accidental, but the system lays itself open to such accidents as I have stated.

On the Continent flogging is never resorted to, and in England only by the prison directors as a *dernier ressort*, when dark cells, half-diet, and other punishments of a more humane character, have failed to bring the convict under due submission. In India it is too severely, and, it is to be feared, too thoughtlessly inflicted, although Superintendents are little to blame so long as public opinion takes the amount of corporal punishments as a fair index of discipline. I have hinted at a practical remedy for checking this unrestrained license, and the conviction forces itself upon me that, without the slightest relaxation of essential discipline, it will be a step in a direction more in accordance with the letter of humanity and with the spirit of the present century.

The contrast between the two systems is at once striking. Corporal punishment is degrading and demoralizing, and though it has its use in some cases as a rule we are of opinion it ought to be avoided.

We commend the article to disciplinarians of Sir George Campbell's stamp. The present system of prison discipline in Bengal is absolute cruelty. No civilized country in Europe would tolerate it for a moment. And yet we live under the civilized Government of the English!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE received the following names of subscribers in aid of the Prince of Wales' Entertainment Fund:

Amount already acknowledged.....	Rs.	29,600
	Rs.	
Raja Promothonath Bahadur, Digaputty ...		1,000
Maharaja Jagadindra Banwari Govind Bahadur, Bonwaribad...		250
Babu Gopeekissen Gossain, Seerampore		200 paid.
,, Khelutch Chunder Ghose, ...		200
,, Obhoy Churn Goobo and brother		200
,, Gobind Chunder Dutt, Dacca		100
,, Mothuramohun Roy		100
,, Sreenath Roy...		100
,, Parbutty Churn Soor and brother... ...		100
,, Hemchunder Kur		60
,, Nundlal Gossain, Seerampore		50 paid.
,, Keesoreelal Gossain ditto		50 paid.
,, Madhub Kissen Sett...		50
,, Sagore Dutt		50
Moulvi Yusoof Hossain, Patna		50
Mir Lutafut Hossain, Behar		50
Rai Kanyelal Dey Bahadur		50
Total.....		32,260

NOTWITHSTANDING the vaticinations of the Anglo-Indian press to the contrary we are glad to observe that the dispute with China is amicably settled. The following telegram has been received on the subject:

London, October 22.—The Foreign Office have received a telegram, dated 18th October, from Mr. Wade of Shanghai, stating that the guarantees obtained from China comprise the Chinese mission to England with a letter of apology for the Yunan outrage, and a safe passage to and across the Burmah Frontier for the mission of enquiry to be sent to Yunan. Further, the Commissioner of Customs has been instructed to report fully respecting the taxation on Foreign trade, and the Chinese Government engages that, when the enquiry is concluded, a competent Chinese Officer shall confer with the British Officials on the regulation of the frontier trade between Burmah and China. A decree was issued on the 10th instant, calling the attention of the provincial Governments to the passport-clause in the treaties, alluding to Mr. Margary's murder, and to the consequent appointment of the Commission. Mr. Wade returns to Pekin in about a week, after having despatched Messrs. Grosvenor and Babel to Yunan.

The above leaves in our minds no doubt that the Chinese Government is sincere.

HAS Mr. Blandford's name a charm? We read the following in the Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the report of the Committee on the Vernacular scholarship and minor scholarship course:

"The Lieutenant-Governor has taken note of the suggestion that the Bengali translation of Mr. Blandford's Physical Geography should be included among the text-books, and has directed that this work should form one of the selected books on that subject."

One would suppose from the above that the Committee had recommended this book, and if they had done so they would have been guilty of a gross jobbery, for the book we believe is not yet out and they could not therefore judge its merits. We are glad to find that the Committee are not guilty of this inconsistency. They thus notice Mr. Blandford's book:

"In conclusion we desire to state that our attention has been drawn by our colleague Mr. Garrett to the translation of Mr. Blandford's Physical Geography which has been named in the Vernacular Scholarship Course for 1876, which accompanied the letter now under acknowledgment. As the translation is not yet published and as we have not seen it, we are not in a position to pass an opinion upon it. We do not know how much of the English text by Mr. Blandford or what parts of it have been translated. Mr Garrett, however, wishes that this work should be mentioned, and we have therefore thought it proper to make these remarks."

May we ask Mr. Reynolds, who signs the Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor, where is the recommendation of the Committee in the above for the inclusion of Mr. Blandford's Physical Geography as a selected text-book? Mr. Garrett wished to mention the work and his colleagues have done so, but they distinctly state that "they are not in a position to pass an opinion upon it." Such being the case we are really surprised that the Lieutenant-Governor credits the Committee with the suggestion and directs that the work, of course when it is out, should be included among the selected text-books. Had the *Pioneer* any hand in this selection?

THE BANKIPORE CORRESPONDENT of the *Englishman* gives an interesting account of a meeting of the Maharajas and Rajas of Behar for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, for which we regret we have not space. We give the conclusion:

"With an alacrity and cheerfulness that certainly did them credit, the Rajas subscribed on the spot a sum of one lakh and thirteen thousand rupees, the subscription being headed by Raja Radhapersad Sing who, for himself and his father (Dumraon), put down a sum of twenty-five thousand rupees. The Maharaja of Hatwa also subscribed a similar sum, while the others brought up the amount to that I have stated. The death of the Raja of Tikari prevented the immediate subscription of Rs. 10,000, but that sum will eventually come in, and I have heard that Darbhanga will

contribute no less than Rs. 50,000. Notices of the meeting, or invitations as they are called, were unfortunately not sent in time to several Rajas, but they will doubtless add to the handsome sum already got up for the purpose."

The Mahomedan gentlemen, it would seem, have made a separate move. They held a meeting of which the correspondent gives the following account :

"It was first moved by Saiad Vilaiat Ali Khan, seconded by Saiad Amdad Ali Khan, Bahadur, and carried, "that suitable arrangements be made by a Select Committee, to be presided over by the Commissioner, for the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at Bankipur." The same gentleman then moved "that, in order to commemorate the advent of His Royal Highness, a Hospital in connection with the Temple Medical School, or a new College be built, to be named the *Prince Edward's Hospital* or *Prince Edward's College*." This resolution was duly seconded and carried, as were also two or three others, appointing a General and a Select Committee, and providing for the appointment of Sub-Committees in the different districts. Immediately after, the meeting was brought to a close, subscription books went round, and nearly thirty thousand rupees were subscribed by those present."

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows :

"It is believed that Colonel W. Agnew, Judicial Commissioner of Assam, will retire from the service in March 1876 In him Assam will loose an upright and efficient Judge. His commission is dated the 14th January 1839, and while on the staff he "served during Punjaub Campaign, 1848-49, was present at attack of Dulla, Medal, also present at battle of Moharajpore, bronze star; and engaged at action of Subraon, Medal." He has been in civil employ in Assam for nearly the last 25 years, for a greater portion of which he had to perform duties purely of a judicial character for which he is eminently fitted. Had not Colonel Agnew been in the post he now graces much more "barbarity" would have been daily committed by the lawless subordinate European officers of the Province. Himself a master of manners, Colonel Agnew sometimes went too far to enforce them in others and that was his only fault."

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT says :

"I find you omitted the Calcutta Civil Engineering College while comparing Roorkee with the Cooper's Hill College. Doubtless you are aware that the Calcutta College is very much reduced now both in its teaching staff and teachable subjects. Besides the Government have withdrawn the guarantee they held out to successful students for appointments. It is indeed a matter of great surprise that the passed students of this College, some of whom have since acquired considerable influence and position in society, do not strive to ventilate the question. I cannot conclude this subject without inquiring why the Government do not appoint Native Engineers as fellows of our University."

Again :

"I may point out for your consideration why the Calcutta Civil Engineering College is subordinated to the Presidency College, whereby a non-professional gentleman has been entrusted with the duties of the Principalship! Economy is secured at the sacrifice of efficiency! Was the standard of former days reduced to suit the convenience of an inefficient staff or to make the students inferior to their competitors of Cooper's Hill? You can name Lalas Kanva Lal, Manno Lal and Behari Lal of the Roorkee College and Baboos Bholanath Dass, Khettra Mohan Bose and Madhab Chandra Roy of the Calcutta College, as fit men for appointments as fellows of the Calcutta University. The Faculties of Arts, Law and Medicine are represented by the children of the soil and it is an incomprehensible anomaly why the Faculty of Engineering should not be represented by them."

The same writer says :

"I am sorry for having omitted to mention the bestowal of appointments in the subordinate executive service in Assam, on gentlemen other than those named in my communication published in the *Patriot* of the 16th August last. Baboos Isan Chandra Patronobis, Ram Kumar Dey and Prosanno Kumar Ghose got their appointments as Extra Assistant Commissioners at the time I wrote. Since then Baboos Dinonath Sen and Hem Chandra Barua have also been appointed as such—the former is a Persian scholar and has acquired considerable experience at the bar and the latter is a self-made man and may be said a Professor Shamacharan Sirkar of Assam.

A RECENT number of the *Academy* contains a discussion about Muhammad's condemnation of pictures, a summary of which will, we think, interest some of our readers. It appears from this discussion that there is not a syllable in the Kuran condemnatory of pictures and statues generally, the only passage (V. 92) bearing on the subject being limited to *Ansabs*, which the lexicographers take to mean "*things set up to be worshipped*" *i. e.* graven stones, or idols. Some commentators, however, strain the meaning of Muhammad's words far beyond their original meaning, and deduce rules of conduct, the ideas of which probably never entered Muhammad's head. There are also several traditions (*Sunnahs* and *Hadiths*) which are much more positive. In one of these related by Ibn Abbas the prophet is recorded to have said : "Every painter (of living things) is in hell-fire; and God will appoint a person at the day of resurrection for every picture he shall have drawn, to punish him; and they will punish him in hell. If you must make pictures, make them of trees and things without souls." This has had no doubt a prejudicial effect on the Fine Arts among the followers of the prophet; but it does not amount to absolute prohibition of pictures as pictures only and not objects of worship and as women have no souls, it would logically follow that they, the most beautiful objects in nature, may be represented in paint or stone without any offence to the letter of the law. At any rate the faithful seem to have taken the prohibition with considerable latitude. Certain it is that the Khalifeh Abdul Malik, the great head of the Muhammadan Church of his time, did not think himself precluded from engraving his own image in full length on his coin, and another Khalifeh, el Mutawekkil, put his image and that of a camel on his coin. Some of the Turkoman chiefs of Syria had their busts on their coins; and Akbar and Jehangir and a few other Delhi Emperors put images on some of their money, (the zodiacal coins for instance). The most renowned and valiant of Moslems, the Moors of Granada, did not scruple to put figures of animals in the ornamentation of their palaces, and in the present day there are very few Muhammadans in Calcutta, or Bengal, who abstain from pictures in their rooms when they can afford them, and the best miniature painters of Delhi are Muhammadans. Some ostensibly orthodox persons do more; honoured by the Empress of Hindustan with the Star of India, they are proud of displaying it on their breasts, though its principal part is a cameo of the Queen. We doubt if there be a single Muhammadan of birth and position who does not most anxiously wish for the Star, or who would scruple to put it on because it contains an image. The rupee, we fancy, has never been refused by any man, however religious he may be, on the ground of its bearing the Queen's bust, though as a matter of religion the bust comes under the same category with pictures and statues, and no distinction whatever is made in the Muhammadan scriptures between images on coins and those on other objects : on the contrary, with the exceptions above set forth, Muhammadan sovereigns have at all times and everywhere, as a rule, invariably avoided images on their coins. Besides, whatever may be said of making or wearing images there is no text whatever which makes looking at images sinful; and in practice no one objects to look at them. We have seen hundreds and thousands of Muhammadans, not excepting many leading and very orthodox Maulavis and Kazis at Hindu religious festivals, looking very complacently at the images of Durga and other goddesses, and as yet none has shut his eyes when driving through the esplanade by the side of the statue of Lord Hardinge. None will, we concieve, maintain these men are not unmindful of the requirements of their religion.

THE HIGH COURT on its Appellate side has issued a set of rules "for the preparation of paper-books in regular appeals" which will come into force from the 1st proximo. They are in some respects an improvement upon the old rules, but in other respects they are open to serious objections. The improvement referred to consists in throwing upon the appellant the cost of translating and printing all the documents and evidence necessary to be looked into for the determination of the appeal. Under the old rules each party had to bear his cost so far as the papers on his own side were concerned. It is certainly reasonable that the party, who impugns the judgment of the lower court should bear the expense of laying before the appellate court the facts and evidence upon which the decision of the court below might be based. The rule under notice runs as follows :

"In such list shall be specified not only the papers forming that portion of the record which is relied upon by the Appellant or Appellants, but all the papers in the records so far as may be necessary to enable the court to dispose of the appeal."

The list referred to is the list of papers received with the record of a case.

The new rules to which we object are those which entail additional expenditure upon suitors and increase the costs of litigation. Rule III provides :

"Within fourteen days after receipt of the list above mentioned the Appellant or Appellants shall deliver to the Deputy Registrar a copy of such list signed by such Appellant or Appellants or his or their Advocate or Vakeel, showing by filling up column 4 of the list what papers or portions of papers in the record it will be necessary to read at the hearing of the appeal."

This evidently includes the papers, which form what is called the "court's portion of the work," consisting of the plaint, written statement of issues, judgment appealed against, and notes fo depositions taken down by the Court. Under the old rules these papers were translated and printed at the expense of Government, and we see no reason why the expense should now be thrown upon the suitors. The stamp fee payable by the appellant for filing an appeal is already too high; then there is the cost of translation and printing of records, the last only a few years ago the Judges used to peruse from the original manuscripts; and last though not the least this additional expenditure on account of printing, which ought to fall legitimately upon the State. This is, we fear, driving the thin end of the wedge. People resort to the High Court when they feel that justice has not been done to them in the courts below, but to multiply the expenses of appeal would be to shut the Court practically against poor suitors. Knowing as we do how the Mofussil courts are constituted and how often are their judgments reversed or modified by the High Court, a greater misfortune, we submit, cannot befall to the people than the multiplication of difficulties in the way of appeal to that Court. The short period of time, 2 weeks, within which the parties were required to deposit with the Deputy Registrar the estimated cost of transcribing, translating, printing and preparing portions of the record was hitherto a subject of loud complaint, but the rules have not remedied it. This time ought to be extended to at least one month, as in most cases it generally takes 15 days for the agents and vakeels to communicate with their clients. Neither the old nor the new rules make any provision for the translation and printing of the papers in the case of a pauper suitor. The result is that while suits *in forma pauperis* are admitted without payment of court fees, they are liable to be struck off in default of payment of the cost of translation and printing. Lastly, the charges of the Court for transcribing and printing far exceed the actual charges and ought therefore to be revised. But if this cannot be done, the suitors, we are of opinion, should be allowed to have the work done by the employment of their own agency.

REVIEW.

Kshitiss Bungsabali Charita or an account of the Rajas of Nuddea with a review of the present and past condition of Nuddea. By Kartic Chunder Roy. Calcutta, New Sanskrit Press, Sumbut 1932 *or* 1875 *Christian era.*

Second Notice.

Our author is not happy in the arrangement of his facts : we cannot follow them in the order he has given them, and propose therefore to give the narrative in our own way. Raja Ramjibun appointed Raja Rughooram his heir as being the ablest and most accomplished of all his sons. Rughooram was the son of his second wife. Raja Rughooram will be ever remembered for his remarkable physical strength, and extraordinary personal valour and no history of his life can be written without allusion to his feats of strength and courage. When his father Raja Ramjibun was held in duress at Moorshedabad for default of revenue, Rughooram accompanied him. The Newab happened to have a quarrel with Raja Woodoy Chand of Rajshaye and sent an army to put down that refractory chief. The army was commanded by General Lahirmal and Rughooram offered himself as a volunteer. When the troops were encamped at a village named Barrakothi, Lahirmal was holding consultation with Rughooram at some distance from his camp. They had with them only five followers. Taking advantage of this unwariness General Ally Mahomed, the commander of the Raja's forces, advanced towards his enemy attended by a body of well-equipped nineteen horsemen. Lahirmal observed their approach, and seeing no means of retreat was somewhat staggered. Turning to Rughooram, he said: "Our troops are at a distance but the enemy is nigh at hand,—how do you think we should act? I fear" continued the General, "there is little likelihood of our meeting with success in case we engage." Rughooram replied : "It is always a

disgrace to retreat from an enemy though strong. If we take to flight our troops will follow our example. For us it is all the same whether we flee or fail. If we flee we shall suffer at the hands of the Naboh, if we fail in battle we shall fall into the hands of the enemy. At all events it is not advisable to lose heart. I am confident that at least four or five of the enemy shall fall by my hands and the rest I shall be able to put to flight" While they were holding this conversation, Ally-Mahomed with his drawn sword rose in view, Lahirmal quaking with fear took his stand behind Raghooram to whom he observed with trepidation :— "The enemy is upon us and still you seem to be quite at ease!" Raghooram quietly replied: "Let them approach a little nearer and I will give them their due."

When the fitting time arrived, Rughooram aimed his dart so well that it passed through Ally Mahomed's body piercing his armour, and fell some yards behind him. Ally Mahomed dropped from his horse exclaiming that he has witnessed many battles and has himself fought many, but he never fell in with an archer like Rughooram. "Look" said he to Rughooram, "your prowess has frightened away all my followers who have betaken themselves to their heels. Oh! give me some water, I am parched with thirst." Rughooram who was as humane as he was brave offered him water and expressed his wish to take him to his camp and treat his wound and tend him, and also wanted to know whether he had any request to make which he would gladly perform. Ally Mahomed replied, "his case was past all remedy, the fatal arrow had done its work, it was some satisfaction to him to fall by the hands of such an enemy; all that he wished then was that Rughoorm should favor him with his attendance for the few moments that were left to him."

When the Newab's forces returned to Moorshedabad in triumph, the account of Rughooram's skill and bravery so much pleased the Subadar that he rewarded the hero by an unconditional release of his unfortunate father from prison. On another occasion two very celebrated wrestlers visited Moorshedabad and the Newab not finding any to match them in the city or its neighbourhood, asked Rughooram to send two or three skilful fighters. Rughooram responded to the call by attending in person and when the Newab asked him where were his wrestlers, he replied, they were at hand, and then stripping himself of his dress he appeared in the ring, and as he found the wrestlers standing he caught hold of them by their necks one under his each arm. After some moments the Newab asked him to fight. "Fight—with whom?" answered the Raja. "Your combatants are lifeless under my arms" Raja Rughooram died about the year 1728. His career, it is said, was not a happy one. Not being able to clear the arrears of revenue which had been accumulating from the time of his ancestors he had to pay repeated visits to the prison-house at Moorshedabad. Though thus frequently put to straits the hereditary liberality of his family never deserted him. While undergoing the hardships of prison life he made numerous gifts of land to persons noted for learning and piety.

Raja Rughooram died leaving an only son, the celebrated Raja Krishnachunder Rai, who was then 18 years old. He was born in the year 1710 It is currently believed amongst the Raja's descendants and others. and the belief is evidently founded on a tradition,—that Raja Rughooram had intended to disinherit Raja Krishnachunder and had with that view applied to the Newab at Moorshedabad to secure the accession of his step-brother Ramgopal to the Nuddea Raj. But no reliable information can now be obtained as to the circumstances under which this extraordinary resolution had been formed. It is well known, however, that this brother who had been nominated to the *guddee* was a person of no merit, utterly destitute of every accomplishment, void of common sense, almost wholly illiterate and quite inexperienced in business, and to crown all he was inordinately addicted to smoking. It is said that he used to envelope himself in clouds of tobacco smoke for days and nights together. The shrewd nephew was perfectly sensible of this weak point in his uncle's character and did not omit to turn it to his own advantage. On the day fixed for the interview of the uncle with the Newab when the disputed claim was to have been settled, Krishnachunder had posted some of his creatures on the road leading to the palace at Moorshedabad, who were designedly smoking the most delicious tobacco the capital could afford. While Ramgopal was proceeding in his palkee he was charmed with the odour of the tobacco fumes. He thought that as he shall have no tobacco for some length of time during his attendance at Court, and as the smoke which had greeted him was passing sweet he might as well have some puffs before meeting the Newab. Reasoning thus, he ordered the bearers to set him down and desired his servant to serve him with a chillum of the best tobacco which those people on the road were smoking. The smokers as tutored practised many artifices to delay compliance with his wish. While they were serving up the tobacco, the court had assembled. Krishna Chunder then with folded hands and tearful eyes made a touching representation of the grounds on which his claims were founded. The Newab was struck with the youth's intelligence, practical good sense and knowledge of business. Turning to his attendants he expressed his surprise that the claims of such a sensible and worthy son had been set aside in favor of an imbecile brother. Some of them replied, that it was very likely on account of the youth's tender years and apparent incapacity for the management of affairs. But where is the appointed heir?" resumed the Newab. One of his officers and a partisan of Krishna Chunder said that, he was indulging in tobacco somewhere in the *chuck*, This report not receiving credit, a special messenger was deputed in quest of the rival claimant. He returned and reported that what had been represented to the Court was not unfounded. The Newab now clearly perceived that the heir claimed by the deceased Raja was a person without worth or substance. He accordingly decreed the installation of Krishna Chunder on the *guddee* of his ancestors.

Raja Krishna Chunder's accession to the *guddee* did not bring him either comfort or ease. His seat was full of thorns. At that early age of life he was distracted by cares caused by his embarassing situation. He was indebted to the State on account o arrears of revenue to the extent of ten lakhs of rupees, the balance of arrears which his ancestor had allowed to accumulate. In addition to this heavy sum Newab Ally Verdi Khan had made a demand upon him of rupees twelve lakhs on account of *Nuzeranna*, and as he could not meet this excessive demand he was thrown into prison. The repeated depredations of the Maharattas had reduced the Raja's ryots to such a state of poverty and destitution that they were quite powerless to afford him any pecuniary help in this hour of need. In this emergency he summoned his principal amlah to his place of confinement to confer with them on the subject of the debt to the state and the means of liquidating it. None of them could hit upon any expedient for raising funds. One of the number, a Kyust by the name of Rughoonundon, proposed that, if he were vested with full powers of the Raja, and allowed absolute control and management of the estates he would extricate his master from his difficulties. He then explained to the Raja his plans of action, who had the sagacity of comprehending their scope, and he readily gave his assent to the proposal. The circumstances which had in a great measure dried up the resources of the Raj might be realized from the steps taken to liquidate the debt. The descendants of the immediate predecessors of the Raja, their sons-in-law and nephews or sister's sons held a considerable share of the property in izara; they paid rent according to their convenience and pleasure. The Dewans dared not enforce measures for its recovery in due time, and money was nowhere paid voluntarily where there was no sense of obligation. As a matter of course each of these Izardars was indebted to the estate for heavy amounts. The first thing which Dewan Rughonundun did on assuming office, was to call upon one of these sons-in-law for the payment of his share of the rent due. The son-in-law met the demand most indifferently by sending word in reply that, at that moment he was not in a condition to pay. On the receipt of this response to the call, the Dewan summoned the recusant to his presence. The summons also met with a curt reply that he had no leisure to visit the Dewan. The minister anticipated this result. He at once sent ten footmen with instructions to fetch the recusant defaulter, who now understood the man with whom he had to deal and obeyed. The Dewan with many apologies for the trouble he had given him, firmly represented the difficulties which had necessitated the adoption of unpleasant measures and ended with saying "and now I hope you will do what yow can to avoid these annoyances," The measure had the desired effect and it served as a salutary example to all similar proud recusants. The next measure adopted by Rughoonundon was the re-survey and measurement of the estates comprised in the zemindary and the settlement of the rates of rent according to the productive powers of each separate plot. He also instituted a rigid enquiry into all rent-free tenures and resumed on those, which had not a good title These measures of economy made considerable addition to the income of the Raja. When the work of survey and measurement was concluded the Raja felicitated the Dewan on the successful issue of an unpleasant work. The Dewan humbly replied that the work of measurement was not so satisfactory as he had desired and there were difficulties in his way. "If," 'continued the minister, "if the Raja himself could hold one end of the measuring rope and some of the Raja's nephews and kinsmen the other, and his humble servant allowed to note the measurement, there would have been some probability of the measurement being accurate and complete."

Rughoonundan's measures of retrenchment and economy and for re-surveying and remeasurement not only increased the income of his employer but resulted in considerable reduction of expenditure. But the integrity of his transactions and the unswerving fidelity he shewed to his master's interests made him the most unpopular man in the household. Reports most damaging to his character and reputation were incessantly whispered into the Raja's ears and it was only because his acts of undeniable faithfulness had impressed the Raja with his servant's unflinching character that he was saved. But danger awaited the poor man in a quarter where he least expected it. One word uttered at an unguarded moment but under the most justifiable circumstances created an implacable enemy who bided his time to encompass the destruction of Rughoonundun. At a Durbar held at Moorshedabad, the vakeels, dewans, and agents of all the Rajahs and Zemindars were assembled. The crowd was so thick that there was no moving space in the court where the representatives were gathered. The Dewan of Raja Krishna Chunder was a little late in his attendance. In forcing his way into the dense array of animated masses the hem of Rughoonundun's garment touched Manik Chand, who represented the Rajah of Burdwan. Manik Chand's dignity was hurt; turning to Rughoonundon he very sharply said in Hindi: "Dost thou not see you your way, you *Panjee*!" Rughoonundon with an unruffled face very coolly retorted. "All servants are *Panjees*, only some are inferior panjees and some superior." The repartee told upon the assembly, who raised a roar of laughter. This exposure in a public assembly rankled deep in the heart of Manikchand and from that day he vowed vengeance. The opportunity was not far distant. Manikchand was soon after elevated to the post of minister to the Newab. The reader, perhaps, finds no difficulty in identifying the minister. He was the same person who accompanied Suraja Dowlah on his second siege of Calcutta. He was present throughout the operations from the commencement of the siege to the fall of the fortress. It is now perhaps a settled point that the odium of the Black-hole catastrophe rests upon his head. The effete débauchee, his master, was but the nominal leader of the expedition, Manik Chand was the soul and spirit of the rabble horde who followed the prince. One word from Manickchand in the course of business might have secured for the unfortunate captives at least a more tolerable accommodation and thus saved the nation an indelible stigma, which we fear will last as long as the memory of man. But to pursue the thread of our story. A pretext was not wanting for involving the unsuspecting victim in ruin. A quantity of treasure was on its way from Burdwan to Moorshedabad. While in transit through Plassey, then included in the Zemindari of the Raja of Nuddea, it was robbed, some of the escort were wounded and some were slain. The officers and amlah of Raja Krishna Chunder set to work all the means and appliances at their command for the purpose of tracing the robbers and recovering the treasure but without effect. The authorities at Moorshedabad, that is Roy Manik Chand, had come to the foregone conclusion that this daring robbery was due either to a device of Raja Krishna Chunder or to some misgovernment of his affairs. The whole responsibility of this *contretemps* was thrown upon Dewan Rughoonundun, who was summoned to Moorshedabad where he was subjected to every indignity and then blown from the mouth of a cannon. Our author mentions on the authority of a tradition current amongst the members of the family of the Rajas of Nuddea an anecdote which invests the tragedy with a melancholy interest. It will be remembered from what has been said elsewhere that Rughoonundun had incurred deep displeasure of the sons, cousins and other kinsmen of his master for the unsparing hand with which he carried out retrenchments and for the rigor with which he exacted the punctual payment of rent. The Dewan's disgrace and downfall was to them a matter of exultation. It is said that when he was being carried mounted on an ass by the Moorshedabad residence of Raja Krishna Chunder, Koomar Sib Chunder, his son, who happened to be there, betrayed his private feeling by a smile of triumph. This conduct on the part of the Koomar in whose father's service he perished went deep into the heart of Rughoonundun. Turning to him he ex-

claimed: "Your conduct, oh, ill-judging Koomar! sharpens the pangs of my disgrace. But knowest thou not, it is not me but thy father who rides an ass."

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Shomprokash* echoing the opinion of the advocates for the abolition of opium traffic suggests as a counterbalance against the loss of revenue consequent on the abolition of the monopoly, a strict economy in public expenditure by doing away with the exclusiveness of the civil service and by close application of the clipping scissors to army expenditure.

The *Bharat Sungskaruk* is loud in its admiration of the liberal views of the Government of Bengal in respect to the communication of official information to the Press. It however qualifies its admiration on account of the privilege of referring to official correspondence being confined to particular members of that press, as according to the editor, all the members of the press have an equal claim upon government favor. The government is answerable for the evil of which it complains that the native press often misrepresents its motives of action and lines of policy. It is the result of its ignorance of facts.

On the subject of the late stormy debate at the meeting of the Justices for the appointment of a Vice-Chairman, the *Saptahik Sumachar* remarks:—he is a true lover of his country who in making proposals does not allow himself to be influenced by the recommendation of friendship or the alluring prospect of immediate profit but exercises sufficient foresight to look to the future welfare of his country. That parent who being cognizant of the misdeeds of his beloved son does not check him is a short-sighted man and the greatest enemy of his child.

Referring to the behaviour of the dittoing Justices at the last meeting of the Calcutta Municipality the *Sumaj Darpun* observes that, unless we admit that flattery and subserviency are inherent in human nature and they are practised without motive, we cannot account for the fact of Justices who, hold independent professions acquiescing in all respects in Mr. Hoggs' will.

The *Poornoo Chundroday* suggests that if the government be really anxious to promote the cultivation of the industrial arts it should see that the instruction imparted in the school of industry in the arts be sound and substantial; that it should give to the instructing staff additional teachers well conversant with the art or arts in which they impart instruction; for at present upon one or two competent eachers has devolved the whole work of teaching the several arts prescribed in the course of study. It regrets that at present there is no arrangement providing for the teaching of drawing in oil colours.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Rs.	As.	P
Gazeepore Public Library	13	4	0
Secy, Girgaum Library, Bombay	6	10	0
Moulvi Mohomed Serajul Haq, Pakoor	5	0	0
Secy Bactool Reading Club	6	10	0
Baboo Monohurrylal Some, Chinsurah	2	0	0
,, Tarrucknath Chatterjee, Bhatooreah	10	0	0
,, Shumbhoo Chunder Dey, Hooghly	5	0	0
,, Jodoonath Bose, Arrah	13	4	0
,, Khetter Chunder Adetto, Allahabad	13	4	0
,, Sreeram Chatterjee, Suknara	6	10	0
,, Nilmadub Chatterjee, Sookchar	3	8	0
,, Gobind Prosad Das, Jomokie	13	4	0
,, Sateurry Nundee, Lahore	13	4	0
,, Rameshurnath, Dinapore	20	0	0
,, Nilmoney Seal, Neemuck	6	10	0
,, Jogendronath Mullick, Andool	39	12	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*October* 20, 1875.

GENERAL—*The 11th October* 1875.—Baboo Kadar Nath Mullick, an Extra Assistant Commissioner of the Fifth Grade in Assam, whose services have recently been placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, is appointed to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Sixth Grade, and is posted to the district of Manbhoom.

The late Baboo Kali Nath Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, was absent on leave, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, from the 16th June to 19th July 1871, in extension of the leave granted to him under orders of the 1st April 1871.

Baboo Umakant Das, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Noakholly, is allowed leave for one month and ten days, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th ultimo, the date on which he availed himself of his leave in anticipation of sanction.

Mr. William Fiddian, Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Balasore, is allowed leave for twenty-eight days, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 30th instant.

In supersession of the orders of the 4th instant, Mr. Francis Frederick Handley is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in the district of Pooree, and to act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade.

Mr. Handley is allowed subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, with effect from the 3rd instant, to enable him to join his appointment on his return from furlough.

Mr. Jhon Berney Wargan, Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahye, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 19th November 1875.

Mr. Colman Patrick Lowis Macaulay, M. A. C. S., is appointed to be a member of the Central Examination Committee.

The 14th October 1875.—Moulvi Ramizuddin Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

The 15th October 1875.—Mr. Arthur Rattray, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in temporary charge of the Buxa division of the Julpigoree district, is transferred to the Chittagong Hill Tracts from the date on which he may be relieved by Mr. R. H. Renny.

The 16th October 1875.—Mr. Herbert Mosley, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Patna, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad, in the Second Grade, from the date on which he may be relieved by Mr. A. C. Mangles.

Mr. Christopher Henry Vowell, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, is re-appointed to act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade in Shahabad, from the date on which he may be relieved by Mr. H. Mosley.

The 19th October 1875.—Mr. Jhon Whitmore, C.S., reported his return from furlough on the 17th October 1875.

POLICE.—*The 16th October* 1875.—Baboo Gadadhur Khan, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is appointed to have temporary charge of the District Police of Moorshedabad from the date on which he may have taken charge of it on Mr. D W. Dunda's death.

MEDICAL.—*The 3rd October* 1875.—Dr. R. A. Barker, Medical Officer of Beerbhoom, is allowed furlough for one year, under Section 7, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days.

The 11th October 1875.—Surgeon-Major Charles Julian Jackson, Officiating Civil Surgeon of Rajshahye, who has, under orders of the 20th September last, been appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Mozufferpore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved by Surgeon-Major Edwin Clement Bensley of his present duties.

The 18th October 1875.—Moulvi Muffezuddeen Ahmed is appointed to be Secretary to the Committee for the management of the Charitable Dispensary at Magoorah in Jessore.

Advertisements.

TO BUILDERS CONTRACTORS &c.

The Stewards of the Calcutta Turf Club invite tenders for the provision of a temporary Stand opposite the Calcutta Race Stand at a place to be pointed out by the Stewards, the temporary stand to be erected complete by December 18th to remain the property of the tenderer, and to be removed by him within a week of the last day, December 29th, on which it will be required for use.

The following is a description of the Stand required.

Five rows of accommodation raised one above another, each row 20 feet long divided into two lengths of 10 feet each by steps 2 feet broad, each row to consist of a continuous bench seat and foot board so as to allow of sitting or standing at pleasure.

The lowest foot board to be 2 feet above the ground; the foot boards to be raised 1 ft. 9 inches one above another, each seat bench to be 1 ft. 6 inches above its foot board; each seat and each foot board to be 1 foot 9 inches broad. A row of Steps 2 feet broad from the ground to be highest row at each end of the Stand (in addition to the Steps in the middle) with rails and posts on the outersides. The Stand to be strong enough to bear 250 people.

No varnishing or polishing necessary, but the planks to be planed smooth.

The tender should give the dimensions of the posts, supports &c. proposed to be used, the kind of timber of which the Stand will be constructed, and the sum of money for which the Stand will be erected, left for use for the period specified, and removed, all at the expense of the tenderer.

Tenders should be addressed to the Stewards of the Calcutta Turf Club, 55 Chowringhee Road, Calcutta, and will be received up to November 12th.

The Stewards do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

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